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For Men and Women of the Gay Community and Friends

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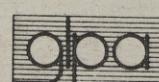
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MGW WRITE

We must act to change things

Dear Editor:

I think your guest commentary by Drew Siegel, in the August 15 issue is very good. It points out that all of us, not only homosexuals, but our friends and others interested in civil rights, can ACT to change things.

HIC (Homosexual Information Center) is more than a library/archives but it is like most libraries/archives and movement organizations, in that it is run by volunteers, with not much money, trying to educate people and change things. It has been my experience that too often leaders, organizations, and publications need educating themselves. There is a lack of communication and cooperation among the people and groups in the movement. Often some people and organizations spend more time fighting with each other than in trying to fight our enemies. Yet I don't see that most groups are in competition with each other. I find it hard to understand why some groups will not exchange material or information with each other or why publications will not send copies to movement libraries/archives.

The article, same issue, on the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, is a good service to your readers. While a directory like our Directory of Homosexual Organizations and Publications, and GaYellow Pages, etc. are excellent resources, it's important for publications like yours to tell something about groups working in the movement. MGW can help in this. The August 15 issue is a good example of such help.

William E. Glover
Homosexual Information Center
Bossier City, LA 71111

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A matter of

PER-SPEC-TIVE



Write To LIFE

by M.R. Richards
OF MGW STAFF

Sacramento, CA — The California Assembly's Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health and Human Services will conduct a hearing on Thursday, Nov. 15, 1990, in West Hollywood, on discrimination toward gay men and lesbians in the areas of employment, housing and other health and human services.

The hearing was announced by Assemblymember Terry Friedman, (D-Los Angeles) who is chairperson of the subcommittee. Friedman said, "This will be the year to pass a gay and lesbian equal rights bill.

After a frustrating eight years, 1991 will mark a turnaround for lesbian and gay Californians."

From now until the hearing date a special effort is being made to solicit information about individual cases of discrimination from members of the lesbian and gay community. The subcommittee is particularly interested in discrimination involving employment, housing, health services, government services and other public accommodations.

Letters regarding personal discrimination may be anonymous but should contain a clear account of the discrimination, the resolution, if any, and whether a local or state government agency was in-

volved in seeking a resolution to the discrimination.

Anyone who has experienced personal discrimination should write to Assemblymember Terry Friedman, State Capitol, Room 4117, Sacramento, CA 95814 or to the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE), sponsor of the gay and lesbian equal rights bill, at 926 J Street, Room 1020, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Anyone interested in testifying at the hearing in West Hollywood should contact Friedman's office. The hearing will start at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium at West Hollywood Park, 647 N. San Vicente, in West Hollywood.▼

Wanted: Media anti-gay remarks

The Sacramento Chapter of GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, is asking for assistance in monitoring and reporting anti- or negative gay comments being made on the local Top 40 radio stations. Information can be forwarded to the GLAAD Hotline at 552-1935.

Sacramento GLAAD, founded in April as the third chapter in California, identifies and responds to public expressions of homophobia and bigoted, misinformed statements about lesbians and gay men, and lesbian/gay issues and activities. The group in turn acts to educate and sensitize media representatives about violence and discrimination which is provoked by defamation, and to promote positive and accurate expressions of lesbians and gay men and our issues.

The local chapter is forming an Advisory Board of community representatives who are knowledgeable about the history of the lesbian/gay community and the community's interactions with the local press. The Advisory Board will assist GLAAD members in understanding how to deal most effectively with the press. Participants in the initial discussion included Ken McPherson from San Francisco GLAAD, MGW Publisher/Editor Linda Birner, Gay Cable Producer Ron Hatch, LIFE Lobby Executive Director Laurie McBride, The Latest Issue Publisher Kate Moore and Sacramento AIDS Foundation Executive Director Dr. Janet Rogers.

GLAAD's next meeting is set for Thursday, November 1 at 6:30pm. For more information about the meeting, call 924-9290.▼

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What Price Integrity?

—integrity, n. [L. *integritas*, wholeness, soundness, from *integer*, untouched, whole, entire.] the quality or state of being of sound moral principle; uprightness, honesty and sincerity.

We deserve the best efforts our leaders can give us. We deserve their **integrity** — and in return we owe them our support (financial, moral and active) and commitment.

In a political climate which has become a battleground for survival and for civil rights we must depend upon the **integrity** of those who speak for us. In any movement those qualities which embody **integrity** are crucial — lives may depend on truth, strategy, professionalism, — on responsibility or accountability.

Our institutions need to support those qualities and require them as standards in professionalism. It is our press's job to raise those questions and search out answers.

For a long time there was a lot of fun, a lot of hiding, a lot of **NOT** hiding, a lot of playing, a lot of flirting with "cross-over" between gay and non-gay communities — between coming out and not coming out. There's **STILL** room for fun, flirting and frolic. There's room for loving, living, laughing — for mistakes and for tolerance. But things are more intense now — the stakes are higher. We deserve the best. We HAVE the best. We have to learn to **EXPECT EXCELLENCE** and professionalism from ourselves and from others.

We HAVE to come out in ways that are comfortable for US. We have to live our lives with integrity — to ourselves and to others — because we deserve the best and we deserve to BE the best and we deserve to KNOW it.

What price INTEGRITY?....Maybe it's just GROWING UP!

-- M.R. Richards

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MGW UNDER the DOME

CAP/PAC Forum: 'Gay Marriage'

by Drew Herzog
OF MGW STAFF

On Monday, September 9, CAP/PAC presented a forum on 'Gay Marriage' to a group of about 50 people. Meeting upstairs at the Town House, the early evening session began with a no-host bar and an array of hot hors d'oeuvres.

Anne Bersinger from CAP/PAC introduced the panel: attorney Carolyn Langenkamp, MCC Bishop Ed Sherriff, and Terry and Cheryl, two women who were planning to celebrate one of MCC's "holy union" ceremonies.

Rev. Sherriff started the presentation with a brief description of the background and content of the "holy union" rite. Interested couples must have an established relationship (six months minimum) and attend three counseling sessions to determine and discuss personality compatibility. The couple can orchestrate most of the content of the ceremony, including the vows.

Terry and Cheryl spoke from their own interests in the service. Terry said that she wanted to publicly express a commitment to "more than just a living-together situation." For both spiritual and emotional reasons, they wished to give outward expression to their "solemn vow...for life." They also spoke of the support they continue to receive from their MCC community in maintaining their relationship -- support which they felt lacking in both the straight and the gay communities at large.

A question from the audience -- "Why not call the service a marriage? Why accept the state's definition of your marital status?" -- segued into Carolyn Langenkamp's presentation of the legal alternatives to a marriage license. She started by asking those present who have had or considered having a 'holy union' rite to raise their hands. About 10 people did so. Carolyn

Panelists Terry, Cheryl, MCC Bishop Ed Sherriff, attorney Carolyn Langenkamp, and facilitator Anne Bersinger. Photo by Linda Birner

then asked for a show of hands from those who would consider having a legal marriage if it were available for same-sex couples, and almost everyone in the room responded.

So it's obvious to all of us, she continued, that there are real social, financial, and legal benefits to legal marriage. The tragedy is in the number of hoops lesbian or gay couples must jump through to acquire even a small fraction of the rights heterosexual couples get with their license.

Some of the strategies Carolyn suggested were:

-- A 'durable' power of attorney, to cover healthcare contingencies. This would enable one's lover to maintain visiting/access rights, and participate in decision-making.

-- Making a will -- now! The longer your will has been in effect, the better it will hold up in court if contacted. Carolyn said to make sure that friends knew where you kept a copy of your will, but protect the original from unsympathetic relatives! She also suggested leaving items of sentimental value to appropriate family members, to show that you knew what you were doing and were making considered decisions when you made the will.

Also suggested was a 'regular' power of attorney, for financial reasons. Carolyn cautioned that this should stipulated "only if incapacitated" to prevent possible misuse.



Other strategies were discussed, such as adopting your partner as parent or child, or obtaining a "confidential" marriage license by using only first initials. Carolyn half-humorously said, "Try whatever you think might work!" She did add two cautions -- a lesbian/gay marriage of convenience has significant drawbacks in the form of nu-

merous liabilities incurred. And suing the city or state to challenge the current licensing laws is most likely a waste of time and money. Much more planning, cooperation, and work is needed from the lesbian/gay community before we can expect any major changes, Carolyn summed up.

In closing, Bersinger pointed out the importance of rituals in the value-system of any society, and observed that lesbian and gay cultures need more affirmative rituals, to give our choices and actions meaning both for ourselves and for society at large. ▼

"Do Nothing" bill creates stir

by M.R. Richards
OF MGW STAFF

SACRAMENTO -- Controversial California Senate Bill 2483 by Senator Newton Russel (R-Glendale) is causing some insiders to wonder what all the controversy is really about. The bill is a rewrite of a 100-year-old bill which prescribes a penalty for disturbing a religious assembly. The fine is not to exceed \$1,000, imprisonment for not more than six months or performance of community service. The bill more than six months or performance of community service. The bill was amended by Assemblymember Terry Friedman (D-Sherman Oaks) to specify that it covered only "any assemblage of people met for religious worship at a tax exempt place of worship," severely limiting the intent of the bill and its supporter Traditional Values Coalition lobbyist, Rev. Lou Sheldon. Laurie McBride, executive director of the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE) said, "There is no doubt that Sheldon was aiming this bill at ACT-UP and that he meant our community no good but legal analyses we've gotten in the Capitol claim that Sheldon's bill ended up limiting existing law rather than enhancing it."

In March of 1989 Mark Rexroad, 34, of Los Angeles was charged with disturbance of assembly for placing a smoke bomb at an Operation Rescue "worship meeting" at

Melodyland Christian Center. Rexroad was charged under Penal Code 403 which prevented a disturbance of any kind at a church meeting from within or without the church building. He was sentenced to three years informal probation; given a \$500 fine plus a penalty assessment totalling \$1200; was ordered to make restitution for building damage; served 20 days in jail and 50 hours of community service.

One insider describes SB 2483, "It's a do-nothing bill. Terry Friedman's amendment actually limits existing law. Now it only covers an actual religious service and limits it to a tax-exempt place of worship. The purported increases in fines and jail time are just a reiteration of powers that judges already have. In addition, any sentences can also be waived by a judge." A spokesper-

son at the American Civil Liberties Union said the bill, "doesn't represent any powers that judges don't already have." McBride said, "With Friedman's amendment the protections are actually limited to their own tax-exempt property so any major upset about this may be crediting Sheldon with more power than he actually has. Remember the key here is that they would have to prove willful disruption also. I know they (TVC) will take this and tout it as a bill they created from scratch but in fact I believe he (Sheldon) lost -- these religious meeting laws have been on the books for over 100 years only now they're specifically limited, and with the Terry Friedman amendment he's no longer protected at the Hyatt Regency," she said. ▼

Manuscripts sought for New Lesbians & Gays in Education

encouraged to share your viewpoint, or favorite lesbian/gay anecdote, lesson plan, item of humor, method of coping, legal issues, or coming-out-in-the-faculty-room story.

Manuscripts should be forwarded to: Sue McConnel-Celi, Box 8932, Red Bank, NJ 07701. For more information, call 201-530-8593 evenings/weekends. ▼

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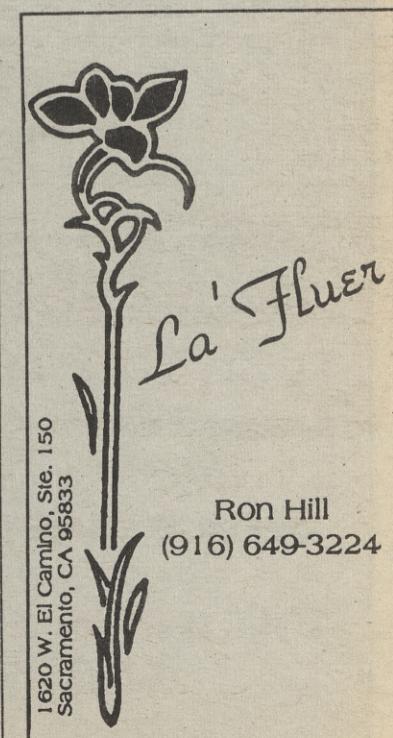
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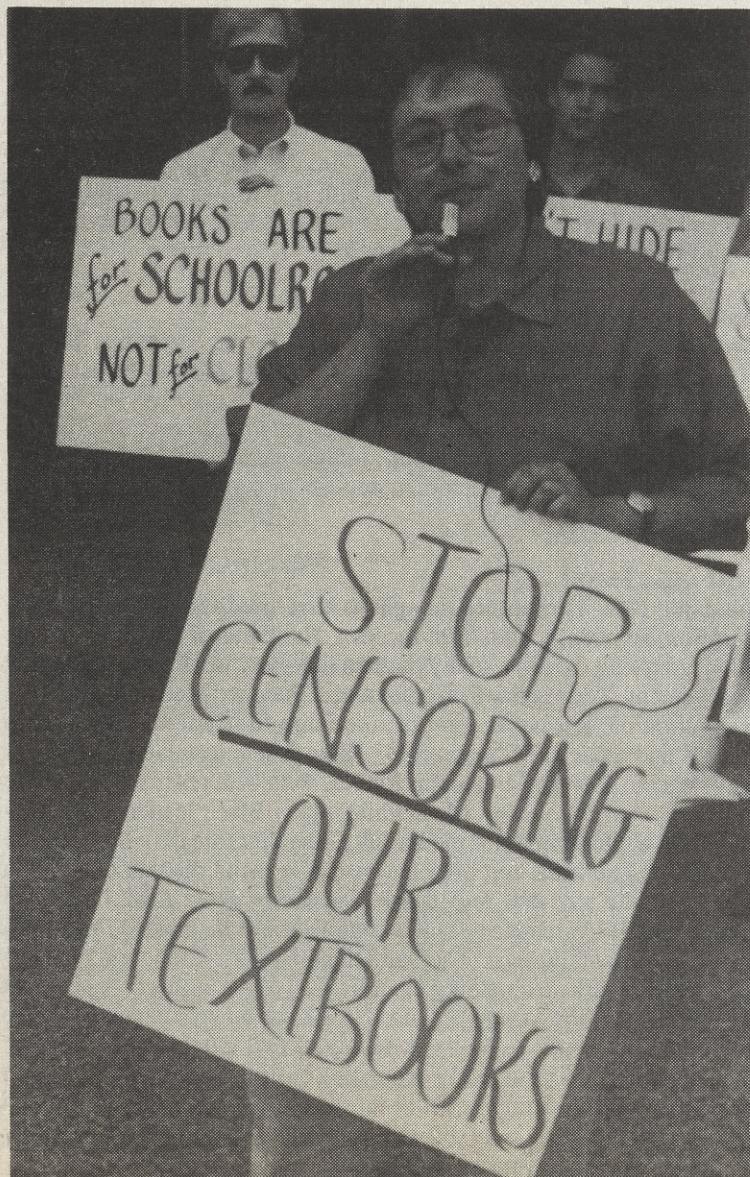
Textbook battle over accurate history

by Maria Albin
OF MGW STAFF

October 11 is the day push comes to shove for the California State Board of Education. They must vote for or against the adoption of the recommended Houghton-Mifflin History/Social Science textbooks for K-8 grades. They could, of course, delay their decision for a short period of time. Given the recent immense public outcry about the contents of these particular textbooks, it would seem prudent for the Board to sit back and re-examine their choices. Where there's smoke there's fire, and this controversy is not just a little campfire.

On September 13, the Board listened to more than two hours of emotion-charged testimony regarding the Houghton-Mifflin texts. Most speakers objected to all or parts of the books. The major proponents were right-wing Christians, the writers of the textbooks (surprise!), and Larry Meyers, a self-identified native Pomo Indian. Major errors were cited by each opponent: the depiction of a black savage welcoming a white visitor by holding out a bloody bone to be eaten, the failure to identify King Tut as African and mention that the Queen of Sheba was a woman of color; the stereotypical representations of American-Latino lives, including the offensive referral to Mexicans as Hispanics; the strong emphasis on Jewish persecution of others, with no reference to the persecutions suffered by the Jews from the Romans and early Christians; and last, as well as most insidious, the lies by omission about the gay/lesbian/bisexual history-makers.

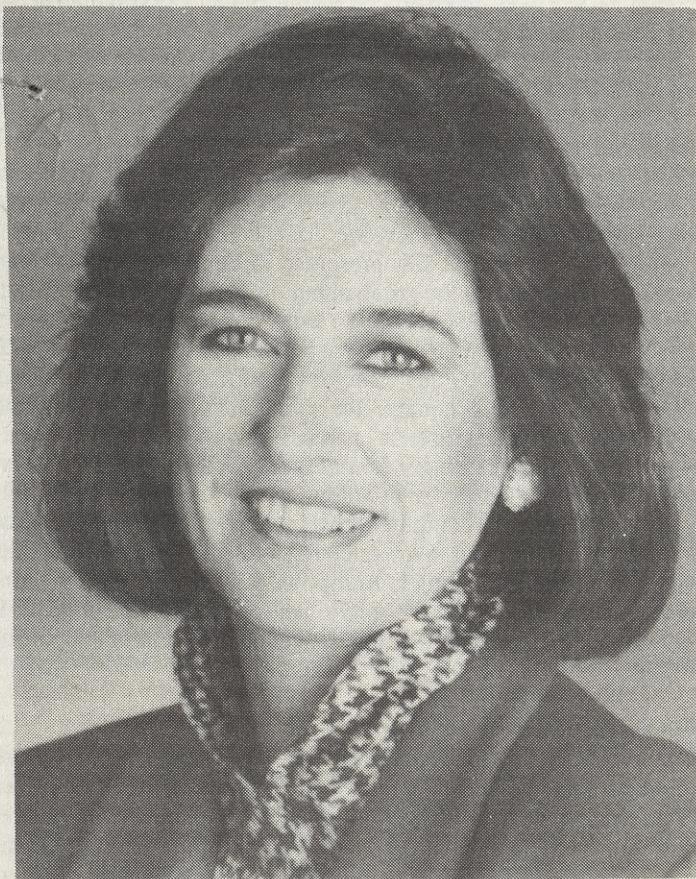
Robert Birle, from the Bay Area Network of Gay/Lesbian Educators, accurately pointed out the omission of Willa Cather's sexual orientation while referring to her work cited in the 8th Grade Supplemental material. There are vague and nebulous references to her sexual orientation ... why not the truth? GLAAD/SFBA spokesperson Jesse Greenman insisted speakers identify their financial interest in the adoption of the textbooks. She called for the Board to stop lying by omission, to include fair and accurate information about lesbian/gay/bisexual people. ACT UP and other supporters stood and turned their backs as the Rev. Louis Sheldon began making homophobic statements relating to absolutely nothing contained in the texts under review. It was a very powerful protest tactic.



LIFE Executive Director
Laurie McBride

Gay supportive Family legacy continues

An interview with Kathleen Brown



Candidate for Treasurer
Kathleen Brown

The following is an exclusive interview conducted by MGW and candidate for state treasurer Kathleen Brown.

What is the status of your campaign?

"I've been traveling throughout the state of California, building support in every county I can get to and I've been talking about the issues that are facing California. The state's economy and where we are going to go in the 1990s and I've been talking about having a treasurer who would be accountable and responsive to the people of California."

What are your endorsements at this point?

"I've received a wide array of endorsements from women's groups to labor groups, from business groups and from individuals and elected officials as well. From gay and lesbian groups and communities, I really have an extraordinary broad base of support for any candidacy for treasurer."

You are the daughter of one former governor, are you looking to get something out of that?

"I'm very proud of my family and what they have done for the people of California. I have said that I'm running this campaign on my own, my father's not running, my brother's not running, Kathleen Brown is running. And I've asked the voters of California to judge me based on my professional experience as a corporate bond council working on millions of dollars of financial transactions. To judge me on my public experience as a board member on the board of education and as public works commissioner. I want to win this race on my own."

How does the treasurer effect the gay community?

The issues facing the treasurer are issues of importance to every taxpayer in the state of California. There are three main areas of re-

See Kathleen Brown on page 7

Register to Vote!

Perhaps the most moving testimony came from Daniel Layer, who identified himself as a gay teenager. He cited information regarding increases in teen suicides. He said being a gay teen, with no textbook role models made teen survival more perilous. He asked for inclusion of gay/lesbian historical figures so gay/lesbian teens might find strength to live through the tumultuous teen years.

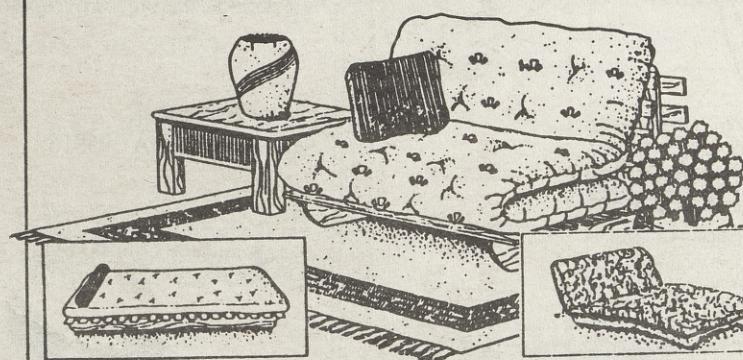
The textbooks currently in use in California are about eight years old, and they, too, were racist, sexist, and homophobic when approved for use. Some speakers at the Board hearing said these new books were a "first step" in the right direction. Do they mean to tell us that it has taken this state over 100 years to adopt textbooks which are just now "the first step" toward accurate portrayal of our history? We shouldn't be anywhere near a "first step" heading into the 21st century!

There's still time to let your viewpoint be known. No new testimony will be taken at the October meet-

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MGW HIV NEWS

by Sonya Cox
OF MGW STAFF

Open Road Benefit...

The dynamic duo of Steve Van Dyke and Jim Ralston, who sing as the country duo "Open Road," will host a concert to benefit the AIDS Foundation's Hand to Hand Project on Saturday, October 6 at 8pm at the Sierra II Theater on 24th Street and 4th Avenue (near 24th & Broadway). Don't miss this event!! \$10 tickets available at the door or prior to show from Joel Ferriera at AIDS Foundation (448-2437) or other sources.

Thank You, Bulletin Board...

The three gay computer bulletin boards in Sacramento met recently at McKinley Park for their monthly picnic, and offered to match any proceeds collected from club members for the Hand-to-Hand Project. Their incredible gift of \$768 was presented to Foundation spokesman Joel Ferriera, who spoke to the group about the goals of the Foundation and needs of PWAs (people with AIDS) in the community. The bulletin boards offer an opportunity to meet new people and communicate with others about gay issues and other topics of importance. Because callers may choose an anonymous "handle," the boards have proven to be a great place for those still in the closet or just coming out. It provides a non-threatening place for obtaining information or for lively debate. Messages can be transmitted either privately or to more than one reader. Potential users need both a computer and a modem, allowing the computers to "talk" to each other over telephone lines. Computer access numbers of the three clubs are (1) Acropolis, 927-2703; (2) Parthenon, 967-5817; and (3) Doryphoros 443-8851. And again, thanks SO MUCH, board users, for the generous and much-needed donation in support of area PWAs.

Senate doesn't come thru...

AIDS activists are complaining bitterly that, just weeks after Congress approved the landmark bill to provide emergency "disaster relief" to PWAs hardest hit in 16 cities throughout the country, the Senate budget panel has refused to put up all the money promised. \$800 million was authorized for next year for the "Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act," also called the Ryan White AIDS Act, but the Senate appropriations committee voted to put up only \$110 million. It had already been scaled down from the \$4 billion actually needed. "This effectively kills the CARE bill," said an AIDS Foundation spokesman from San Francisco, one of the cities slated to receive emergency funds. They went on to say that Iowa Senator Tom Harkin, chairman of the subcommittee authorized to fund the bill, may have scuttled the funds to enhance his chances in the upcoming election race. "He made what we consider an incredibly callous, cold, calculated move," said the Foundation spokesman.

Blood heating treatment...

A research team from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases says they urge that the controversial blood-heating experiments not be repeated.

Dentist dies of AIDS...

In the wake of the death of the dentist accused of transmitting the HIV virus to a patient during a tooth extraction, the woman he allegedly infected announced that she plans to sue his estate for damages. Prior to his death, the dentist took out a newspaper ad revealing his identity and letting his patients know he was positive when he treated them. In the ad, he said he was unaware of anyone being infected by him, but urged anyone who might be concerned to go get tested; of his 1,000 patients, 367 have now been tested for the HIV virus with two showing a positive result. An additional 86 have made appointments for tests. The Center for Disease Control is investigating the two new cases, a man and a woman. There is still no consensus (and probably never will be) on how the first patient became infected, even after extensive CDC investigation. The fact that she says the dental visit took place within the last two years and that she now has full-blown AIDS is in itself unusual: only about 2 percent of HIV cases develop into AIDS at this fast pace. Of the 4,500 HIV-infected health care workers in the country, until this incident there had not been a single case of infection from a health worker to a patient. CDC assistant director Harold Jaffe says it's important for the public to understand the risk factor surrounding this case, if indeed this

is how the woman patient acquired HIV. "It was inevitable that this would happen, no matter how minuscule the possibility. The longer the virus is around, the more likely it would be that something that is considered 'impossible' would happen. For instance, there might some day be a case where the virus was transmitted from kissing or household contact, but people need to realize that the risk is infinitesimal. For example, if you're going to have surgery, it would be important to know if your surgeon was hung over or if he's just had a fight with his wife. But for some reason, people who will accept risks in all other areas of their lives are unable to accept minuscule risks in regard to HIV infection." "In reality," says Jaffe, "the possibility of becoming infected by a health care worker is 'an emotional concern, not a rational concern.'"

Herb study...

UC-San Francisco School of Nursing has joined with the Quan Yin Herbal Treatment Program for People with HIV to do a joint study of the effectiveness of traditional Chinese herbs, analyzing data gathered over the past two years from over 400 people.

Discrimination bills...

The California Senate approved a bill passed by the Assembly (but not yet through the House) that would bar companies from refusing health insurance to people because they are gay or lesbian. Supporters say this bill is necessary because the spread of HIV has led to insurance discrimination against gays. The same group, unfortunately, rejected a bill that would make it illegal for doctors or dentists to deny services to anyone who is HIV positive.

Oral interferon...

About 800 New Yorkers are thought to have tried low-dose oral alpha interferon, apparently with little success. Hundreds of others across the nation are trying the drug, many of them reporting modest to substantial improvement. Tests in San Francisco and at Stanford Medical School are focusing on the injectable form of interferon in much higher doses to fight KS and other AIDS symptoms. High-dose injectable interferon is a key "chemo-therapy" treatment for KS, with best results at about the 400 T-cell mark or above. Meanwhile, many Black leaders have suggested that white-dominated media and researchers are playing down the value of the low dose oral drug because of a racial distrust of African science. They say that few Black Americans have tried interferon because white gays tend to be better organized and are better able to learn about experimental drugs. The San Diego Buyer's Club, one of many underground markets obtaining the drug for PWAs in this country, says sales are continuing to rise because PWAs are always eager to try the latest source of hope. A six-week supply of oral interferon is currently going for between \$55 and \$110 depending on the buyers club used. Each apparently sells a different quality reproduction of the Africa Kemron version, which is extremely difficult to get. The price will undoubtedly continue to change. Upward, of course.

DDC availability...

Hoffman-LaRoche says it will make its experimental drug DDC available to people with AIDS who can't take or aren't helped by AZT. Until now, PWAs had to try AZT, and then also use DDI, before they could try DDC.

Vitamin C the second time around...

High doses of Vitamin C work well against the HIV virus in test tubes, says Nobel laureate Linus Pauling of Palo Alto. The report elicited skepticism from other researchers who noted that "there was sort of religious fanaticism about C some years ago by some people." Some PWAs used so much that they suffered side effects such as violent diarrhea, but unfortunately showed no apparent benefit. Pauling's office said they've been spending their time (our time?) on this research because of reports received from eight individuals who said they felt better after taking large doses of Vitamin C. ▼

(Thank you to Dr. Barry Siegel for his medical oversight of this column, and to Dr. Elizabeth Harrison for her continual contributions to its content.)

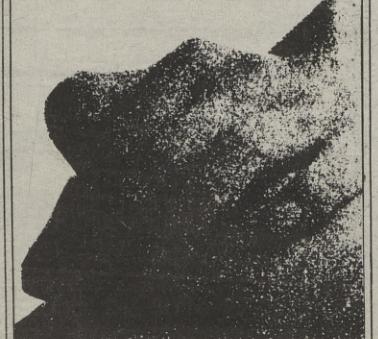
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CHANAY CHIROPRACTIC CARE

SAF suffers cutbacks eliminates 18 positions

The Sacramento AIDS Foundation announced a major reorganization involving nearly every aspect of the agency based on the loss of approximately \$610,000 in funding.

Eighteen employees, or nearly half of the current staff, have been laid off effective September 30, and both the education and client services departments will be substantially reorganized.

"The fiscal climate we are facing is forcing us to retrench and reorganize," stated Board President Gus Guichard, "We will be moving toward even greater reliance on volunteers and a completely different way of helping clients, similar to the programs of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation."

Highlights of the new system include:

- a variety of new volunteer programs will be started
- more services will be delivered in group settings
- services will be provided to people with ARC or AIDS only
- case management clients will receive a maximum of 90 days of service

The SAF will maintain its home health care programs at a reduced level. The current maximum number of slots available is 50; this will be reduced to 30.

"All of this is a sad reflection of the fiscal situation facing health and human services in California," said SAF Treasurer John White, "No matter how hard we argue with the county for more money, they can't give it to us if they've just faced huge losses of state funds. Our own fundraising efforts have resulted in a nearly 300% increase in donations since 1988, from \$55,000 to \$140,000 in 1990, but it obviously hasn't been fast enough."

SAF lost nearly \$200,000 in funds from Sacramento County which the county lost from the state. SAF's education department lost \$50,000, and the agency has also reached the end of \$360,000 in funding provided by the Sierra Foundation. Currently SAF has \$200,000 less in state home care funding than it had in FY 89-90, but expects to receive an augmentation at some point during the current fiscal year.

Any additional home health funding, which is dependent on federal aid to California, can only be used for direct patient services and will not alter the Foundation's budget for personnel. Loss of these funds would force further cutbacks in home health care. ▼

Page 6 MOM...GUESS WHAT! NEWSPAPER October 1, 1990

MGW NEWS CLIPS

Lutherans Set Aggressive Agenda

Lutherans Concerned/North America (LC/NA), an international ministry for lesbian and gay understanding within Lutheran churches set an aggressive agenda for itself and the institutional Lutheran Church which will greatly affect the lives of Lutheran Christians. Over 150 lesbian and gay Lutherans and their supporters converged on Chicago for the four-day biennial assembly of LC/NA under the theme I am in Your Midst. The conference occurred July 19-22 and featured passage of several major resolutions and a "liturgy of protest" held at the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) headquarters to protest the ELCA Discipline Committee decision to suspend First United and St. Francis Lutheran Churches of San Francisco for ordaining an openly gay man (Jeff Johnson) and a lesbian couple (Ruth Frost and Phyllis Zilhart). ▼

Gang member gets jail for attack on gay shelter

An El Sereno street gang member was jailed for six months after pleading no contest to a STEP Act violation -- participating in a street gang -- in connection with an attack on a shelter for indigent gays, Los Angeles City Attorney Jim Hahn announced. Arnold Brodsky, 25, was sentenced by Los Angeles Municipal Court Commissioner Anthony Filosa after he entered his plea to one violation of Penal Code Section 186.22, a provision of the Street Terrorism Enforcement and Prevention (STEP) Act which prohibits participation in a known street gang. ▼

Homophobia and sexism rampant in Navy memo

An internal Navy memo advocating targeting of women for discharge due to homosexuality, was recently leaked to the National Organization for Women and Congressman Gerry Studds' office. The memo, entitled "Equal Treatment of Male and Female Homosexuals," was distributed to all commanding officers in the Naval Surface Forces of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet and was sent to NOW and Rep. Studds by anonymous sources. ▼

Partnership of deceased lesbian sues AT&T for employment benefit discrimination

In the first domestic partnership benefits case filed in federal court, the surviving lesbian partner of a deceased AT&T employee charged the company with discrimination for refusing to provide her with employment benefits routinely given to surviving family members. Sandra Rovira, the surviving partner who is represented by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, claimed in a complaint filed that AT&T's denial of benefits violates federal law which requires an employer to honor the promises it makes regarding benefits. Furthermore, AT&T's denial of benefits to Rovira violates its own company policy which includes protection against sexual orientation and marital status discrimination. ▼

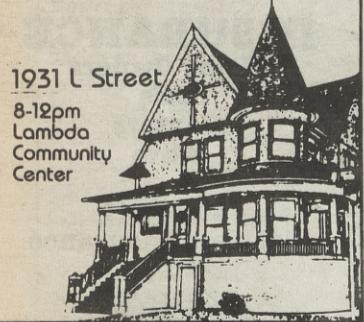
Kowalski denied right to attend 1st national disability pride day

Judge Robert Campbell has denied permission for Sharon Kowalski to attend and be recognized by the first National Disability Pride Day to be held on October 6 in Boston, MA. According to the court-appointed social worker, Judge Campbell felt it was "not in Sharon's best interest right now" to be allowed to attend the event.

"This is yet another clear example of why I need to be Sharon's guardian," said Karen Thompson. "I asked Sharon if she wanted to go to this event, she said yes. I am the only one who has taken Sharon's wishes into account and has listened to Sharon."

Thompson, who has been fighting for Kowalski's rights for over six years, filed a petition last year to be appointed her guardian. A hearing on the request, scheduled for August 2, was cancelled because the press demanded, and was granted, the right to be present in the hearing. It was decided that the arguments of counsel would be submitted to the court in writing and the Judge would rule by the end of August whether to award guardianship to Thompson or to order an evidentiary hearing. On August 30, Judge Campbell issued an ordered calling for such a hearing. ▼

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Kathleen Brown

from page 5

sponsibility for the treasurer; the cash management responsibility, which is the opportunity to invest the state tax dollars for the highest yield and for the safest yield, it's in that context in which the treasurer can generate more money that can go into the general fund for all of those programs that are so important whether they are health related issues in the AIDS crisis that we have to address or the insurance problems that we have to address, here is an opportunity to generate money for the general fund that can go to those projects and programs.

Secondly, the treasurer is in charge of the state to bond financing programs, I've talked about the backlog of bonds, some \$12 billion today in voter approved bonds. Admittedly \$5 million just came on after the June election, even before that there were \$7 billion in bonds. Those bonds represent the financing which the people of California have approved for schools and parks for housing and a variety of programs that will improve and enhance the quality of life in California. There are also other kinds of bonds that the treasurer oversees, private activity bonds, and health facilities is one of the main areas that the treasurer has responsibility for overseeing as chair of the California healthy facility financing authority.

I understand that two months ago there was a bond issue in L.A. for an AIDS hospice.

That's right, and that was under the private activity bond financing program and that's an area where you need to have a treasurer who will be an advocate, who will say we need to look at our definition of

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PARTIES AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

a health facility and make sure that definition encompasses the kinds of hospice facilities that are beginning to emerge but struggling to be financially viable for the gay and lesbian community and for the AIDS survivors.

This office wasn't considered to be a very powerful place until Jesse Unruh came along. Do you think that the power is well placed?

There is power when there are concentrations of money, and how that power is exercised must be in the most prudent fashion when you're talking about taxpayer money, but it is also important to understand that you're representing the people of California. I've talked, for example, about the pension funds and the investment in junk bonds which our current public employee retirement system has \$535 million of junk bond holdings, \$200 million of which were purchased during the current appointed treasurer's watch. I don't think that is the best use of public tax dollars and public pension fund money, so I will be a treasurer who will speak out against those kinds of investments.

What makes you the better candidate over Mr. Hayes?

I have not only the technical credentials to be treasurer; Corporate Bond Council, worked on Wall Street, know what a TAN and a BAN and a RAN and an IPO and a PUT and a HEDGE is and what to do with them. I also have the public policy experience of also working on the front lines of local government where sewers have to work, where streets have to be cleaned, where trash has to be picked up.

Would your door be open to have people come in and talk to you about these problems?

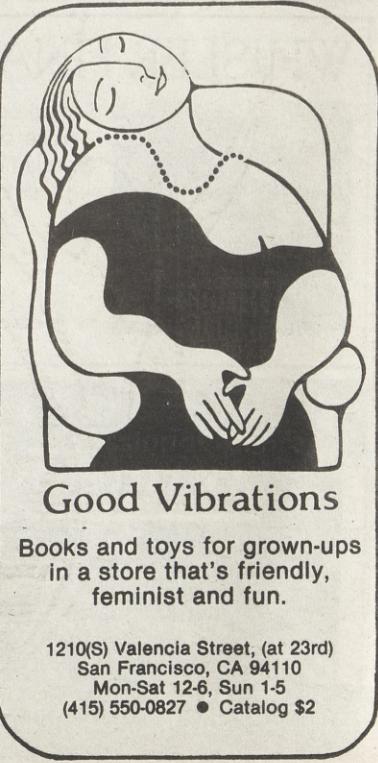
Absolutely, I think that one of the most important roles that I have played in whatever positions I have held to be able to be accessible to people. You won't find this treasurer hiding in the vault.

What is your working relationship with Dianne?

My relationship is very good. We know each other. My father gave her first job in public life as a women's parole board commissioner.

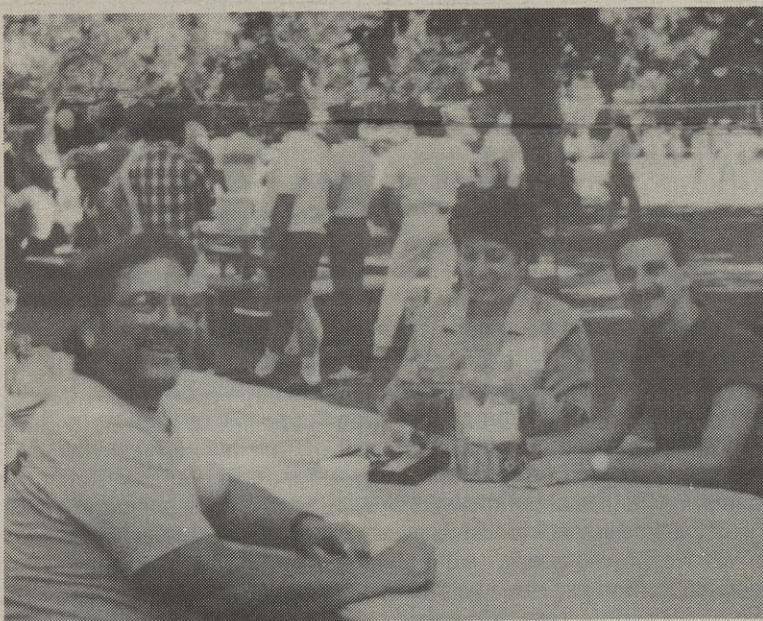
How do you feel about domestic partnership on a personal basis?

I am very open to that kind of proposal. I think we have to be respectful and mindful that California is a diverse population. Whether we talk about different religions or whether we talk about alternative lifestyles I think you have to have a respect for an individual and what that individual's choices are and most of all respect the privacy for individuals, certainly in the gay and lesbian community that those relationships should be respected. ▼



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MGW HAPPENINGS



Hand to Hand profits from Board's generosity

Members of the three Sacramento computer "bulletin boards" collected \$768 at their monthly picnic for the Sacramento AIDS Foundation's Hand to Hand Project, which provides support to area residents with AIDS or ARC. Will Bennett (left) chaired the presentation, and assisted Marghe Covino and Joel Ferriera (right) as they counted the collection. Joel spoke to the group about the Foundation's programs and invited them (as well as anyone else in the community with any time to spare) to join with us in meeting the needs of local PWAs. Numerous opportunities are available, not only from the emotional and practical side, which asks volunteers for about six hours a week, but also through programs now being developed that include "phone buddies," counselor assistance, and helping PWAs with paperwork or other administrative details, which will make good use of any free moments a person may wish to contribute.

Photo by Sonya Cox

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Music lovers plan sing-along to help YWCA

A fundraiser for the YWCA in Charlotte Williams and Shirley Kemmeyer's backyard will be held Saturday, October 6 at 6pm. All-you-can-eat and entertainment are included in the ticket price (\$10 pre-registration, \$15 at-the-door). Featured performers include: Sacramento Men's Chorus, Mabs Merry Minstrals, Dolce Trio, The Treblemakers Barbershop Quartet, Linda Baron, Dulcimer and Sing-a-Long teacher, and Frank Lawler, guitar and song leader. Send checks, payable to YWCA to Charlotte and Shirley, 4671 Moddison Ave., Sacramento, 95819; phone 451-6979. ▼

Jewish author to speak

Writer Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz will read from her work on Thursday, October 11, at Congregation B'Nai Israel, 3600 Riverside Blvd. Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz has worked for social change for nearly 30 years. Her writing addresses issues such as Jewish identity and anti-Semitism, women and violence, and racism. She is the author of *My Jewish Face and Other Stories*, co-editor of *The Tribe of Dina: A Jewish Woman's Anthology*, and the former editor of *Sinister Wisdom Journal*. She has been published by *The Village Voice*, *Utne Reader*, *Tikkun*, *Off Our Backs*, and other journals and anthologies.

Seating for this special event can be reserved by sending \$5 to New Jewish Agenda, Box 163416, Sacramento 95816 before October 5. If seats are still available, tickets will be sold at the door for \$6. Doors will open at 7:30pm.

For information call 448-4574. ▼

The Sacramento Women's Center announces new support groups

The Sacramento Women's Center is pleased to announce four support groups for women facilitated by a qualified therapist, Penny Houghland, MSW.

The four groups are: (1) a general issues support group which may include topics of stress, abuse, parenting and women's and men's relationships, (2) living authentically -- or living lives that are authentic to ourselves, to be more than caretakers and nurturers, (3) divorce recovery -- for those recovering, in the midst of or are contemplating divorce; and (4) white women eliminating racism -- a consciousness-raising group/ workshop for white women to identify and eliminate the barriers to creating relationships with people of color.

Each group will meet one evening per week for 1 1/2 hours, beginning October 8. The fee is \$10/session; sliding fee scale available on request. In order to register for the group, a \$10 registration fee must be received by October 3. Call the Sacramento Women's Center for details and registration at 441-4207. ▼

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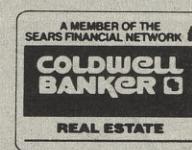
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Bug off, buddy!

Midge Marino trades your fear for anger

Personal safety is more than just physical self-defense

by John Mello
OF MGW STAFF

The year is 1956 and it is highly unlikely that female high school seniors anywhere, much less in Vacaville, will be studying judo. In spite of this, farm girl Midge Marino is introduced to the harmonious development of body and mind by a committed Boys' Club instructor who does a lot for kids. Empowering girls in the art of self-defense is considered pretty outrageous for the times. After all, this is the heyday of concoctions like the film *Sabrina* where the playboy's modus operandi is to lure vulnerable girls (with a bottle of champagne) away from the party and into the indoor tennis courts while the band plays *Isn't It Romantic?* Though today's definition of date rape was inconceivable in the 50s due to the legitimized level of male aggression (and because, as one former sorority girl explains, "it only happened to 'fast' girls") it becomes obvious what William Holden's character would be getting away with when we look at the findings (see box). A girl who realizes what is happening and defends herself can rewrite that scene instead of suppressing her natural survival instincts.

From that early confrontation with sex role socialization upon entering the world of men's judo, Midge Marino has gone on to be recognized as a leading authority in the field of personal safety and self-protection. Her widely endorsed TYFFA (Trade Your Fear For Anger) prevention workshops are changing people's consciousness about victimization and survival. For the gay community, probably the most frequent victims of hate violence in America, personal safety training is now imperative. The statistics barely begin to describe the amount of the violence or the viciousness of the attacks, and many incidents go unreported. According to Deputy Chief of Operations Lee Dohm, 17 incidents were reported in Sacramento in 1989 and 18 have already been reported as of July for 1990 which suggests an increase of perhaps 100 percent for the year. Workshops such as TYFFA are literally our first line of defense.

City Council Appointee

We should be very proud to have people who are recognized as leaders in our community like Marino. Her impressive resume runs to four pages packed with degrees, teaching, coaching, consulting, research, community services, administration, and this year she was appointed by the City Council to serve on the Police Community Services Advisory Committee after being invited personally by the Mayor and Councilwoman Heather Fargo. This nine-member body has seen to the August 14 implementation of a check-box for bias motivated crimes on Sacramento City Police crime report forms which previously had been hand-tallied by reading each incident for content; a beefed-up patrolling of gay bars; investigations into skinheads and other gang operations. Hopefully they will improve the community's perceptions of police services which have been the subject of much discussion lately. Marino, who has taught self-defense to the



Midge Marino

Police Community Services themselves, says "We have a hell of a police force in this community in terms of their 1000 percent change in attitude over the last 15 years."

From Judo to Iconoclasm
Marino began as a pioneer in women's judo in the United States once it became an obsession for her. She had trained exclusively with men at a time when women in Japan were restricted to slow-motion kata, or "form" judo. She was placed in a tournament but the visiting Japanese officials refused to allow her to compete! Soon she had attained her first degree Black Belt, but because all recommendations still came from Japan there was no real organized or standardized way to promote women. It took her several more years and another Black Belt after studying at the hallowed Kodokan Judo Institute in Tokyo until she became director and chairperson of Women's Judo for Northern

learned in judo to a real common need of people."

About the time her new approach was being formulated, she was invited to start a class at California State University Sacramento which led to her election to the Women's Studies Board. Marino reveals, "I came from an older generation of lesbians against rocking the boat. In developing the women's studies program in the early 70s, I began to look at myself as a woman and analyze socialization messages. Because of my equal standing with men in judo and because of my role as a masculine person, I had the ability to analyze both sides. I began to learn about the oppressions of rape victims."

Disturbing Parallels

In her youth, Sacramento's gays and lesbians were a long way from being 'out.' "There was a lot of togetherness, in the bars for example, but we never really came out ... never really felt that

Key Elements of Defense

- If attacked, you must take control immediately and reverse the situation. Attack your attacker.
- Never let anyone intimidate you or be controlled by anyone.
- Using the element of surprise to your advantage.
- Using your battle cry.
- Moving with his power and using it against him.
- Making good use of your strength and being in control of your own body.
- The use of focus and direction into a vital point.
- Never rely on anyone else to protect you, only yourself.
- Your attitude, mind set, inner power, knowing and being sure of yourself.
- Awareness and using your senses — eyes, ears, nose, and your inner sense.

— Midge Marino, TYFFA workshops

California, which fought to fund women's competitions. This alone would be an outstanding lifetime achievement in a traditionally male-dominated discipline (as well as discussing policy in Japanese, no less).

She was the first woman instructor, manager and coach for the San Juan Judo Club, where her experiments in self-defense classes began. As Marino recalls, "Martial arts people believed there was only one way for people to defend themselves. Because martial arts is defense, they didn't accept 'self-defense' instructors. Because women were supposed to depend on a man for protection, they were not prepared to deal with assault. I had to build my classes from a psychological standpoint. I had to find a way to transfer what I

kind of freedom; not being able to hold a decent job was a factor in the 50s." Marino cautions, "Now I'm afraid that freedom will be taken away. In the 70s a lot was accomplished by blacks, women, gays and disabled persons, but not in the post-Reagan era. I see a disturbing trend in the young women in my Sac State classes. They seem to be going back to the socialization of the 50s, a 'we don't have to fight' kind of apathy. They are afraid learning self-defense will take away their boyfriend's control and they don't want to be considered as women's libbers. You can't keep a man if you step out of line; people who desperately need to be liked and loved won't take that risk. Our day is going back to the oppression of the pre-Civil Rights era with right-wing

politicians, fundamentalist religious groups, bombing of family planning clinics, and other ominous signs. Our gay community is under siege and I'm afraid people will feel it's necessary to go back into the closet in order to maintain their professional status, escape being labeled, and escape being gaybashed. I see self-defense in terms of making your life better all the way around. It not only gives you confidence in personal and job relationships, it also empowers a person to stand up to discrimination."

Reporting verifiable incidents of bias motivated crimes is absolutely essential for documentation and all citizens must get involved. On this Marino is emphatic, "What everyone needs is a personal safety game plan, not paranoia. Stop assault at the psychological level first."

- Fifty-two percent of all the women surveyed have experienced some form of sexual victimization.
- One in every eight women were the victims of rape, according to the prevailing legal definition.
- One in every 12 men admitted to having fulfilled the prevailing definition of rape or attempted rape, yet virtually none of those men identified themselves as rapists.
- Of the women who were raped, almost three quarters did not identify their experience as rape.
- Forty-seven percent of the rapes were by first or casual dates, or by romantic acquaintances.
- Three quarters of the women raped were between ages 15 and 21; the average age at the time of the rape was 18.
- More than 80 percent of the rapes occurred off-campus, with more than 50 percent on the man's turf: home, car, or other.
- More than one third of the women raped did not discuss their experience with anyone; more than 90 percent did not tell the police.

— Ms. Magazine Campus Project on Sexual Assault

Pinks and Blues

Marino participated in the original establishment of a self-defense component for the Sacramento Rape Crisis Center, and founded her own school of self-defense, Trade Your Fear For Anger, which was active for several years in the early 80s. In her classes she tells how she has come to identify the social context that fosters a rape supportive belief system as the conditioning of girls and boys into 'pinks' and 'blues.'

Among a whole spectrum of expected behaviors, girls are still being told they are the weaker sex, they should be afraid of men, they cannot defend themselves and other messages that suppress their survival instincts. The majority of award-winning children's books depict girls staying at home or sitting nearby crying while the boys engage in all the physical activity, including coming to the rescue of the crying girls. Boys, on the other hand, are scolded for crying while given a license not to control their learned aggressive behavior. Our culture also promotes adversarial sexual beliefs: the theory that everyone is only out for what they can get. The result is that the 'blues' have been socialized to hear yes when the 'pinks' say no. Marino criticizes that "Men have to combat the problem and learn to deal with the healing process, but they don't believe it's their issue. Most men do not want women to have power ... and rape is for power, not sexual gratification."

"If you can look down your nose at a person, you devalue that person into an object which allows you to justify anything you want to do," she maintains, and this applies to gaybashing as well as rape.

"I ask women in my classes to imagine what a rapist looks like and they routinely say they think of someone ugly. I ask them

which group they would be most afraid of and which is the most dangerous out of Hell's Angels, black men, frat men or teenage boys, and they are surprised that it is the latter group. Teenage boys have absolutely no scruples, followed by the next to the last group, a whopping 10 percent of which admit to having had forced sex." Marino goes on to explain that these are the groups that say the woman was lying, that women like rape, that women provoke it by the way they dress and act, and that women deserve it anyway. Marino continues, "I watch women's reactions ... they think they will respond with fear and terror and be overpowered, but women have a sixth sense of apprehension, however, which is an instinct about whether we can trust a person. It's like walking into a vacant building and just knowing someone is in there. We

need to listen to that because it is a part of our natural survival instinct. Since women will not always be able to use purely physical defense, training must begin with precautionary awareness. Formerly, the objective was 'hit and run,' but these are both negatives. When you run you empower your attacker. We must learn positives, not negatives, as in judo where you move with your attacker's power and use it against him. I train people to use their anger as a positive force and to develop a positive mental picture in their minds of defending themselves successfully. You must learn to take away your attacker's power. When you laugh at an exhibitionist, for example, you break his fantasy which is a psychological defeat by having attacked him."

Grabbing Testicals and Ripping

Strong stuff, but then who wants to become another FBI statistic? Marino's workshop also offers clear-cut methods of attacking the body's vital points that we won't go into here. She tailors her classes to meet the specifications of the needs of the employer, such as airline attendants, disabled persons, senior citizens, hospital workers and travelers. People tell me they are bowled over by the experience.

It is fascinating to try to figure out how her Japanese enculturation with its reverence for authority has filtered through her grassroots feminism with its radical irreverence for traditional roles to produce such a Zen union of opposites. Marino continually pays tribute to her art: "Judo gave me humility, self-discipline and respect for higher rank — also the awareness that anything you do must be to be better society and the moral value people. It was not formed for defense — it is 'practice w/ harm' — a physical and

See Marino

A Coming Out letter to Mom & Dad:

The following is a letter that MGW writer Lou Camera mailed to his parents...

Dear Mom and Dad,

As I said many times before, my move to Sacramento has been very good for me in many ways. Some wonderful things have happened and continue to happen which I have not been able to share with you in the fullest context. I would like to do so now, but before I can do that, there is something else I must explain first. All I ask is that you read this entire letter with an open heart and open mind. Please try not to allow misconceptions to cloud the words. Also, please know that I love you both very much without hesitation or conditions -- I have always appreciated what you have done for me and sincerely hope you will continue to be there for me in the future.

I've started writing this letter in my mind so many times before that I thought it would be easier now as I put it to paper. My hesitancy is that I don't want either of you to feel as if you did something wrong or to be disappointed or to view me in a different light than you may have just an hour ago.

Believe me when I say this is important to me and I need you to be part of my full life, not just half truths. There is a part of me that for years has said you already know that I am gay. If I was wrong with my perception, please don't cry -- take a deep breath and please continue reading -- I love you both and hope you will better understand my feelings and me by the time you finish this letter. First, let me assure you that my health is fine. I am sure with all you read in the newspapers that AIDS may come immediately to mind. I have tested negative and do not engage in activities which would place me in a high risk category. It is what a person does that places them at risk for HIV infection, not the fact that he is gay.

Second, your next question is apt to be about yourselves -- "where did we go wrong?" Let me again assure you that you did nothing wrong. I know you wanted to raise your children to be intelligent responsible, and happy. Children with a sense of purpose, able to show love and be loved. Children that you could be of through their successes, their

Marino from page 9

education teaching the harmony of all aspects of life. Judo brings peace within one's self. Once you know you are superior physically you don't have to prove it. You don't flaunt your physical strength -- the idea is to use it less and less. In the past five years I have grown so much -- I'm much more politically involved. As in judo, one never stops learning. We are also taught that we have a responsibility to teach what we have learned. My workshops are merely a vehicle for people to realize their potential. It's very gratifying."

For more information on the FA Personal Safety and Prevention Safety and Prevention call (916) 927-5651. ■

willingness to take risks and their willingness to stand up for what they truly believe in, regardless of "popular opinion." These points are important and I believe you have succeeded in all three of us. I hope you realize that my sexual orientation does not alter those intentions.

I said I thought you both knew or suspected that I am gay. I have convinced myself that you were actually waiting for me to bring the subject up before either of you would say anything. I hope we can talk about this and that I may answer your questions someday soon. I would not want my sexuality to become a deep, dark secret never to be mentioned again once this letter is acknowledged. I have never flaunted being gay and I don't intend to do so now, neither will I continue to live my life in half truths or modified pronouns.

I have known for a long time that I am gay -- many years before I even acted upon it. My relationships with different women never seemed to be complete or honest. I have found a great deal of support and opportunity for growth through the gay community, especially in Sacramento.

Don't worry, I haven't taken to wearing dresses or molesting little children -- that is not what being gay is about. In fact, both of those issues are more prevalent in the straight community. I actively work in helping others through political action and support. In the past two years, I have played a significant part in raising well over \$50,000. This money was used to fight bad AIDS legislation; to assist people with AIDS or ARC to live full enriching lives; and to support political candidates who believe in human rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation. I am proud of my efforts, but either I have not been able to tell you everything or I had to mask issues in vague terms. The vagueness was due to my hesitancy to admit I was gay to you in fear that you would not accept it or me. I hope you can be proud of these efforts as I am. Remember you wanted all of us to be socially responsible citizens.

Why tell you now? Why not just continue to pretend? You both raised us to be open and honest. For too long and for too many years, I have been living a lie. Christmas is the only time when we all get together, those visits have become harder and harder. Mom, I almost told you last year when we were in the kitchen talking about a number of things over coffee -- but I just couldn't bring myself to say the words. Deep down I think my not dealing with the issue or continuing to be closeted was the reason I drank as much as I did when I was home. Rest assured, I usually don't drink that much normally. I love you both unconditionally -- this will never change. I've wanted you to visit again, but didn't want you to get here and find out about my lifestyle "accidentally." I would not want a phone message, chance meeting of a friend on the street or seeing an article I've written for one of the gay news-

papers to be the way you learn about my sexual orientation. I wanted to be the one who told you. I hope our lives will continue as before. The whole family is very important to me, even if I don't show it by sending birthday cards on time. The fear of not being accepted or of being rejected has controlled my silence for a long time. But I have decided to no longer lead a "double life."

I still remember the night so many years ago when you found out about some early childhood explorations with Billy. I still remember the rage in your face Dad as you beat me into the corner by the front door with your belt. I also remember you saying that you would beat those inclinations out of me as if they were feelings that could be disregarded so easily. That picture has stayed with me and come to mind every time I thought of writing or telling you about being gay. It is hard to envision my life without continued ties to the family or an estrangement, but I can and will no longer live under the stigma of a lie. I feel I am unable to sustain a meaningful relationship with another person for fear that I will have to hide such a wonderful experience from you, my parents, the two who have always been there for me and to whom I have been able to tell just about everything.

I need to reiterate that there is nothing you did while bringing me up which could cause homosexuality. Don't blame yourselves for not having time to play baseball or go camping. Also this is not something happening to you as a punishment from God. There is a support group in Mamaroneck [a neighboring town] called Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). The name, address and phone number of the contact person is ... [if not sure the agency in your parents' area, contact PFLAG Sacramento for help -- they provided full details for me.] This is a group for parents just like you who have learned that their son or daughter is a gay man or lesbian. They have members who feel anger and who try to understand. They can help if you let them. I can help if you let me.

I would like to hear from you by phone or letter when you are ready. It took me years to get up the courage to tell you, I don't expect you to come to full understanding and acceptance overnight. Just remember, I love you both very much...

Lou

P.S. I would rather tell Marie and Bob [sister and brother] myself, but you can if you feel you need their support at this time. I do ask that you let them read this letter rather than to just tell them I'm gay.

Fly
Your
Rainbow Flag
on October 11!!

University groups plan National Coming Out Day events

Delta Lambda Phi, CSUS's national social fraternity, and GLAS (Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Sacramento), are sponsoring local Coming Out Day festivities, Octo-

ber 11, on campus. In alliance with the mission of National Coming Out Day the student groups are planning events to celebrate the gay and lesbian community's diversity, power and pride.

Two major events will take place on campus of CSUS, 11am -- a pre-noontime rally, the theme of which is "Can you come out and play?" with speakers scheduled to include Honorable Assemblyman Lloyd Connally, Las Vegas activist and entertainer Will Kollinz and others.

The evening celebration will be the premiere Sacramento performance by "Liberace." (Will Kollinz

"Entourage," the seven member vocal ensemble of the Sacramento Men's Chorus. The first of the evening's performances will begin at 7pm in the "Grand Redwood Ballroom and Candlelight Lounge" on the ground floor of the CSUS University Union with an encore performance at 9:15pm. Tickets are \$7, and \$5 for students. Tickets can be reserved in advance by calling 441-5640 or 689-7679. Tickets will also be available at the door on available seating.

For information, or to help with the planning of the day's events, call Ian Maki at 689-7679, Dean Fryer at 441-5640. ▀

Across America People Are Coming

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY, OCTOBER 11, 1990



Sandra J. Lowe
Attorney



Rod & Bob Jackson-Paris
International Model/
Professional Athlete



Dave Pallone
Author, *Behind the Mask*



Rita Mae Brown
Best-selling Author



Mandy Carter
Director
N.C. Senate Vote '90



Marvin Liebman
Conservative Activist



Joe Steffan
Former Naval Midshipman

On October 11, thousands of people will be making a decision to come out of the closet. They'll be coming out.

Telling the truth about yourself is a first step toward closer relationships with your family and friends. Here are some ways you can come out.

- Talk with your brother, sister, father or mother and let them know more fully who you are.
- Come out to a friend or colleague.
- Contact, join or contribute to a local or national lesbian/gay organization.
- Write to your elected officials to make sure they know they represent gay and lesbian constituents. One way of doing this is through the Speak Out Program of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

Coming out is an ongoing process, one that begins with the first step: coming out on October 11.

National Coming Out Day commemorates the first public coming out in Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Its goal is to remind everyone of the 25 million lesbians and gays in the U.S. who live across geographic and economic lines.

Donna
Sacra

October 11 3rd Annual National Coming Out Day

Lesbians and gay men will be taking their next step out of the closet on October 11 by participating in coming out events from coast to coast including Sacramento. (Sacramentans will participate by flying their Rainbow flags at their residences.) As individuals, many will be affirming their gay or lesbian identities by coming out to a family member, friend, co-worker, employer, or legislator.

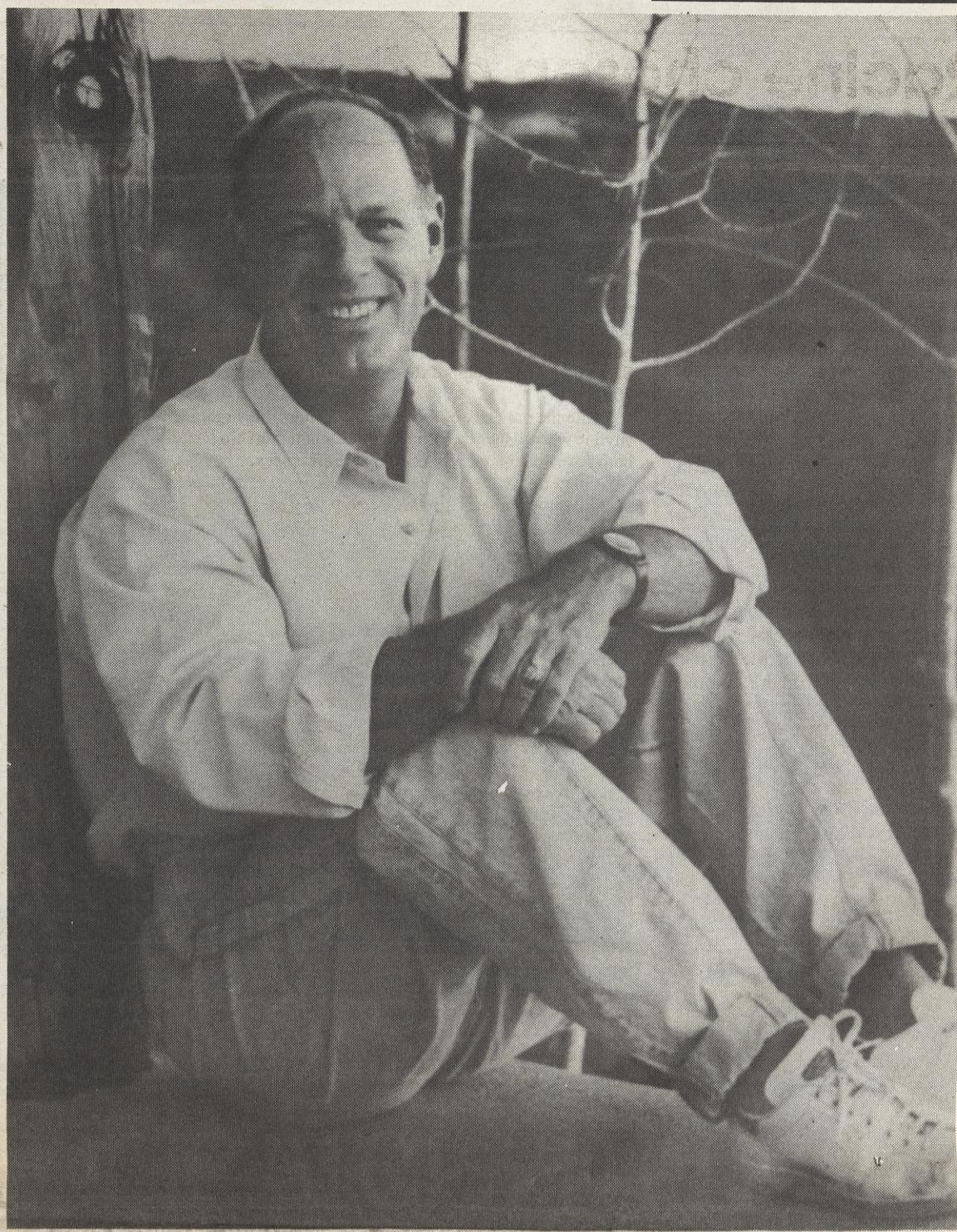
"Telling the truth about who we are is the most positive thing we can do as individuals and as a community," said Lynn Sheppard, executive director of National Coming Out Day. "There are over 25 million gay and lesbian Americans and most folks don't think they know any of us. Isn't that absurd?"

"Here at National Coming Out Day headquarters in Santa Fe, one of our functions is to compile and update a list of NCOD events. The task is enormous as groups, large and small are celebrating Coming Out Day in some way," Sheppard continued. "We in the lesbian and gay community are understanding and demonstrating the fact that there is no reason in this world for us to be ashamed of who we are. It's exhilarating!"

"Polls indicate to us that the vast majority of people who report knowing someone gay overwhelmingly support our rights. Conversely, the vast majority of people who don't think they know anyone gay or lesbian oppose us on every one of the issues important to our rights and our survival," added Jean O'Leary, cofounder of National Coming Out Day.

"If the AIDS epidemic has taught us anything it has made it clear that we will only achieve equality under the law if we are out and visible. This cannot be done from the closet," said Rob Eichberg, Ph.D., co-founder of National Coming Out Day and author of *Coming Out: An Act of Love*.

National Coming Out Day is a yearly campaign that encourages and supports gay and lesbian individuals and organizations to commit to the coming out process. For more information, or to contribute, call or write: National Coming Out Day, Box 8349, Santa Fe, NM 87504, or call 504-982-2558. ▼



Rob Eichberg on Coming Out

by Lou Camera
OF MGW STAFF

Rob Eichberg, Ph.D., noted clinical psychologist and co-chair of National Coming Out Day was recently in Sacramento to conduct the city's first Experience workshop. In addition to promoting National Coming Out Day he was also promoting his first book, *Coming Out: An Act of Love*. The book, which is expected in bookstores to coincide with National Coming Out Day -- October 11, is about "telling the truth, taking control of your own life, and creating an honest, fulfilling, open life of love."

Commenting on the need to come out, Eichberg said it is important to come out to better represent ourselves. "Too often the only image others have of gay men and lesbians centers on what had happened at parades. It is important to be out in full to show the diversity of our culture and that we are everywhere." Eichberg further explained that after the No on 6 Campaign, an initiative movement to prohibit gays from teaching, analysis found that "when someone knew someone gay, they were supportive of gay rights issues by 76 percent, but if they didn't know anyone gay or thought they didn't know anyone gay, they would oppose gay rights issues by the same percentage. It is clear that gay-related issues will not be taken seriously or given adequate consideration, until it is known who we are."

"There is great power in telling the truth. The truth is liberating and allows for a free flow of expression. In coming out, too often there is a focus on drama, a focus on what may be lost by coming out." What usually happens is that the assumption of what would be lost is greater than the reality and even if there is a loss and the individual is given the hypothetical option of going back, they would come out again due to the freedom they personally felt from the experience.

Regarding "outing," Eichberg acknowledged that there is no easy answer. "Coming out is by choice, but I urge people to do so rapidly so outing becomes moot. It is not appropriate to out private citizens, and no one really cares. However, with public figures, responsible for the public trust, it is appropriate to know their personal biases. Outing of public figures, especially if they are detrimental to the community, can be justified. Celebrities in the public eye are another matter. These people can make a difference by coming out, but it is not appropriate to out them. As individuals it isn't any easier for them to come out."

Asked what he would like to be remembered for in 50 years, Eichberg cited teaching love and getting families back together. "As lesbians and gay men, we are more supportive of families functioning

as families. We can love, support, and empower each other to be successful more so than right-wing bigots like Lou Sheldon who uses the cloak of "family" to preach prejudice and encourage people to disown people within the family. Homosexuality does not damage the family, homophobia and secrecy does."

"There is great power in telling the truth."

--Rob Eichberg

California State University, Sacramento is currently negotiating with Rob Eichberg to speak on campus in November or February. It is expected that a book signing would also be included on campus and other community site. For those who do not wish to wait until then, he will be signing books at A Different Light Bookstore on Castro Street in San Francisco on Sunday, October 14 at 4pm. In addition he will be featured, for the third National Coming Out Day in a row, on the Oprah Winfrey Show on Wednesday, October 10. ▼

America, Coming Out

OCTOBER 11, 1990

1, thousands of people from all walks of making a decision to lead more open gay and lesbian lives. You'll be coming out.

About yourself is a fundamental step in creating a better life with your family and friends. Below are a few ways to help you get started.

Brother, sister, father, mother or child, now more fully who you are.

Friend or colleague.

Contribute to a local gay organization.

Encourage officials to know how they represent constituents. One way is through the Human Rights Fund.

Going process, one step at a time. Celebrate Coming Out Day on October 11. Take your next step.

Day commemorates the October 11, 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Its goal is to increase the visibility of lesbians and gays in the U.S. who cross all ethnic, racial, and economic lines.

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Sacramento

COMING
OUT
AN
ACT OF
LOVE
◆
AN INSPIRING
CALL TO ACTION
FOR GAY MEN,
LESBIANS,
AND THOSE WHO CARE

◆
ROB
EICHBERG, PH.D.

Coming Out Day reaches millions

National Coming Out Day will reach millions more people than ever before with two new projects:

First, National Coming Out Day will run a full page ad in the October 15 national edition of Newsweek magazine called "Across America People Are Coming Out." The magazine will hit the stands October 8 in advance of the third annual National Coming Out Day, October 11.

Additionally, National Coming Out Day and the Human Rights Campaign Fund are embarking jointly on the educational campaign encouraging gay men and lesbian adults to register to vote, come out, and "speak out" to their legislators. ▼



NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY... OCTOBER 11

In reel life

Two now playing on Sacramento screens

by Matthew Kennedy
OF MGW STAFF

Akira Kurosawa's Dreams at the Tower

Very, very few filmmakers would have taken the risk. And even fewer would have succeeded. Prodigious director Akira Kurosawa has made a movie that strings together eight dreams of distinct yet repeating themes, and he has done so with spellbinding mastery. The joy of seeing *Akira Kurosawa's Dreams*, made with consummate skill, lingers long after the final credits.

In Kurosawa's universe, there is a boy or a man ('I') caught in a world strange, dangerous or magical. The protagonist of each dream reacts as would the audience as scenes wonderful or horrible emerge before him. There are sequences on war ("The Tunnel"), nuclear meltdown ("Mount Fuji in Red" and "The Weeping Demon"), artistic creation and Vincent Van Gogh ("Crows"), life-threatening cold ("The Blizzard"), childhood fears and discoveries ("Sunshine through the Rain" and "The Peach Orchard") and idyllic country life ("The Village of the Windmills"). Movies of this structure (the multi-directed *New York Stories* or *Aria*, for example) invite the moviegoer to decide which episode was most successful. Not so with *Dreams*, each short movie exists independently as powerful and visionary art. Each in turn contributes to the timely message to embrace and celebrate nature before life on earth perishes.

Kurosawa, of course, has been Japan's greatest director for decades and his influence has been worldwide. At the age of 80, he undertakes this chancy project lacking any cohesive narrative or broad commercial appeal. The material under any other director would probably have been forced and obvious. Kurosawa not only triumphs with this difficult format, he again broadens the horizons of filmmaking. Under Kurosawa's loving guidance, surprises abound and *Dreams* becomes a stunning visual and aural feast.

Postcards from the Edge at the Century, Cinedome

Carrie Fisher of *Star Wars* Princess-Leia-cowpie-hairdo fame, penned this semi-autobiography of a troubled Hollywood mother and daughter. Meryl Streep plays Suzanne Vail, an actress too fond of painkillers. Her mother (Shirley MacLaine as Doris Mann) is a celebrated actress herself, so Suzanne must cope in an environment intolerant of privacy. The demands of film production, familial expectations, and life long bitterness through competition makes Suzanne's overdose recovery tenuous at best. Both women wrestle with their demons and reach a happy accord of sorts with themselves and each other.



The fox wedding parade in the "Sunshine Through The Rain" sequence from "Akira Kurosawa's Dreams" an exciting and powerful film based on Kurosawa's own imaginative and unique vision. Photo special to MGW

Postcards from the Edge may sound like a downer, but it's an often extravagantly entertaining comedy. Streep and MacLaine are dynamite together, dialogue overlaps, neither listens, yet respect and love exists under all that emotional flotsam. The unreality of a life in the movies is clear by a wonderful ongoing gimmick used by director Mike Nichols. A desert set suddenly opens with a door along the horizon (a double visual gag since Los Angeles is a desert itself), snow is on the ground while everyone is dressed for summer and a stroll down the set of a suburban block almost seems real until one of the homes rolls away.

MacLaine has been down this road before. Her patent difficult mother role, perfected in *Terms of Endearment*, works. The smaller roles, including cameos from Richard Dreyfus and Gene Hackman, are largely unmemorable and Dennis Quaid is miscast as a womanizing producer. Streep has made a career of playing victims, women subjected to humiliations or tragic circumstances (*The French Lieutenant's Woman*, *Sophie's Choice*,

All female bluegrass band upbeat

by Marianne Kohlmann
OF MGW STAFF

Sidesaddle, the all-female bluegrass band, played recently at the Party Palace in Fairfield, after having played five nights at the State Fair in Sacramento.

The atmosphere at the Party Palace was stiff, to say the least. Rows of cheap dining room chairs and a small wooden platform of a stage gave the effect of a school board meeting rather than a bluegrass concert.

MacLaine has been down this road before. Her patent difficult mother role, perfected in *Terms of Endearment*, works. The smaller roles, including cameos from Richard Dreyfus and Gene Hackman, are largely unmemorable and Dennis Quaid is miscast as a womanizing producer. Streep has made a career of playing victims, women subjected to humiliations or tragic circumstances (*The French Lieutenant's Woman*, *Sophie's Choice*,

From the moment of their arrival on stage, the five members of Sidesaddle worked to loosen up the rather conservative audience. The music was upbeat and diverse, from Irish traditional songs to Patsy Cline classics.

By far the highlight of the evening was the poignant duet between the fiddle of Lee Anne Welch-Caswell

and the guitar of Jackie Miller. Although the band has frequently changed members throughout its 11 year history, current members harmonize voices and instruments as if they have always played together.

Look for Sidesaddle to play again in Sacramento and for the appearance in November of their third album. ▼

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IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

MGW ENTERTAINMENT

Tosca opens Sacramento Opera's 10th season

by Wayne R. Anderson
OF MGW STAFF

The Sacramento Opera opened its 10th anniversary season on September 14 with Puccini's popular shocker *Tosca*.

henchmen, were terrified of him. Despite unflattering pants, Michael Fiacco looked handsome as *Tosca*'s lover Mario Cavaradossi.



Mary Burgess sang Rome's leading diva *Floria Tosca* with a creamy soprano always under control. In the supercharged second act, after being chased around the stage by the lecherous Scarpia for half an hour, she still had the reserves for a beautifully lyric "Vissi d'arte," complete with a gorgeous diminuendo on the word "Signore" near the end. Dramatically she made the Roman diva credible, and must have set some sort of record by stabbing Scarpia three times. Yet this role does not seem well-suited to her art. Both voice and stage presence lack the white-hot fire of a real *Tosca*. For these we must turn to Kimm Julian's Scarpia. His baritone may not be the lushest around (neither was Tito Gobbi's), but sparks flew from the instant he appeared on stage. He was the most brutal Scarpia I have ever seen, yet in a restrained way, much in the mold of Jack Nicholson. One sensed, rather than saw, the unspeakable violence of which he was capable. It was clear why everyone in Rome, including his simian

He had some pitch problems early on, but once warmed up sang with a mellifluous tenor reminiscent of Pavarotti or di Stefano. His voice was most secure at its top with stentorian high notes. More subtle singing, such as "E lucevan le stelle," was less controlled, and he has yet to learn to build an aria rather than just belt out its top notes. His acting tended to excess (he ended "E lucevan le stelle" on his head), and his Cavaradossi seemed under-endowed with brains.

Gianni Zeno's Sacristan soon ran out of voice, but the other small roles were well-handled, except for Don Foley (a jailer) who had no voice. The chorus performed well in its brief scene. Conductor Steward Robertson could have held the orchestra's volume down in Act II, and there were some points of rhythmic uncertainty, such as in Scarpia's opening soliloquy in Act II.

The costumes were no more than adequate, but the sets beautifully captured the opulence of Baroque Rome. ▀

House votes to suppress feminist art work

The U.S. House of Representatives, in a tense Capitol Hill environment of arts controversy, has voted to cut funding for "The Dinner Party," an installation by feminist artist Judy Chicago. The move outraged activists from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), who are waging a battle against censorship.

The House voted 297 to 123 on July 26 to cut \$1.6 million from the D.C. Appropriations Bill in response to the scheduled acquisition of "The Dinner Party." The piece is slated for display at the University of D.C. The money deleted by Congress is the amount the university had earmarked for the renovation of the school library, in which the art work will appear.

The work, created to symbolize the achievements of women throughout the history, has been highly acclaimed by critics and exhibited internationally. University officials said the gift of "The Dinner Party" will stimulate expanded private support of the U.D.C. College of Liberal and Fine Arts and attract artists who are on the cutting edge of multicultural expression.

The bill now goes before the Senate floor for ratification. Lobbyists, who had only 24 hours notice before the vote in the House, are hopeful they will be able to defeat the funding cut amendment in the Senate. ▀

Richard Thomas interview:

Ex-Walton to star as opera fanatic in West Coast premier of *The Lisbon Traviata*

by Terry Maloney
OF MGW STAFF

When Richard Thomas saw *The Lisbon Traviata* at an off-Broadway theatre in New York he told the playwright, Terrence McNally, when the play was being cast for a west coast production he wanted to be the first to know.

Though most of us remember Thomas as John-Boy Walton, his expertise in stage acting has brought him high critical praises in a variety of roles, such as the title characters in *Hamlet* and in Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*. And though he has performed in many theatres in Los Angeles, New York and around the country, *The Lisbon Traviata*, which opened at the Marines Memorial Theatre on September 25, is Thomas' San Francisco debut.

Thomas plays Stephen, an opera enthusiast whose friend Mendy shares the same hobby. Both worship the late opera diva Maria Callas, and when Stephen discloses that he owns one of the rare pirate records of Callas' *La Traviata* at Lisbon in 1958, Mendy must hear it. The problem is that Stephen cannot go back to his apartment because his lover is there with a new boyfriend.

The New York productions of *The Lisbon Traviata* have gained much attention with critics and audiences and most of the success has been attributed to McNally's script and to Nathan Lane's performance as Mendy. Lane will also play Mendy in the San Francisco production.

"Nathan is a wonderful actor," says Thomas. "The rehearsal process is different when a play has already been in production and there are newcomers. But working with Joey (John Tillinger, the play's

director) is great and I'm very excited about the production." When the San Francisco run ends on November 4, the play will transfer to the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles.

As with most plays that contain gay characters, the question of what it is "about" has been posed to the author and actors frequently. Will it be too esoteric for a straight audience? Is it basically opera queens on parade? In an interview with the *New York Times* (June 14, 1989) Nathan Lane said: "They aren't just two bitchy gay men sitting around dishing about opera -- They care about one another."

And Terrence McNally, in another *NYT* article said of his script: "The play is about four gay men, not about gay culture." Other critical analyses of the play have pointed out that the passion these men have for opera is much like a passion for baseball, or any hobby. Thomas believes this passion is central to the play's theme.

"Really, the play is about how people use art to reflect their own lives. The characters in *Lisbon* find in opera a heightened, passionate existence that they feel they share with the singers."

Thomas has played gay characters in a number of stage plays, including Lanford Wilson's *The 5th of July* and David Rabe's *Streamers*. The first gay role Thomas played was at the age of 14 in a play called *The Playroom*. Because one often hears of actors complaining that gay roles limit future possibilities in casting, I asked Thomas if he thought there was any truth to the existence of such a stigma. If so, did his wholesome John-Boy im-

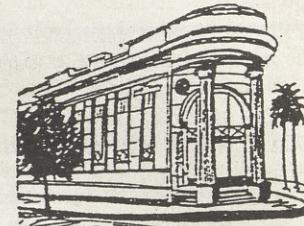
age and now the "family-man" image (there has been much publicity about his family since he sired triplets) protect him from it.

"Well, no, I don't think there is a stigma. I'm just an actor looking for great lines to speak, and now so many of our best American playwrights like Edward (Albee) and Terrence and Lanford are writing good gay roles, I'm happy to play them ... One thing I will say about doing a play like *The 5th of July* (on Broadway, 1981) after doing *The Waltons* is that it can sometimes make a statement whether you intend it to or not. There are some people who are very shocked to see me in a gay role because they are expecting a stereotype and they get me instead. I don't want to sound like a crusader but there is a certain satisfaction in working on plays like this when they portray gay characters in a positive way."

The Lisbon Traviata is part of the Carole Shorenstein Hays Presents series and is playing at the Marines Memorial Theatre in San Francisco through November 4. For ticket information, call 415-474-3800. ▀

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MGW PALATE

Grand Island Inn It's worth the drive...

by Maria Albin
OF MGW STAFF

As the weather turns toward autumn, the call of the Delta comes through strong and clear. Perfect, cooler days ... just right for a short drive to Sunday Brunch at the Grand Island Inn. Don't confuse this with the Grand Island Mansion. Two separate places, same owners. If you've been in the Sacramento area very long you'll remember the Inn as the old Ryde Hotel.

The original Ryde Hotel in Courtland burned down long ago. The first reincarnation became a General Store in 1927. During the 30s Lon Chaney (yes, that Lon Chaney) was reportedly instrumental in reviving the hotel/bar concept. In 1989 The Grand Island Group, headed by Terrance Black, took over the Casablanca-style restaurant/hotel. While the Ryde Hotel sign is still intact, the interior sports a new, subdued and lovely Art Deco look. The huge bar is still there. The restaurant boasts, at least in my opinion, the most comfortable seat-

ing in any local eatery. It's certainly conducive to a lingering, leisurely brunch.

Now for the food. My partner and I made two visits, each time with a different couple, all within a six-week period.

The buffet has its ups and downs. Breakfast staples: scrambled eggs, potatoes, sausage, muffins are average. The smoked salmon was a hit both times, but skip the hard mini-bagels. The fresh fruit is indeed fresh, the salads unremarkable. Each visit found a couple of outstanding dishes; one a lovely poached salmon and one a chicken in wine presentation. Ham and roast beef were okay on one visit; ham and lamb were a far better choice the next time, and the lamb was a much appreciated change from regular brunch choices. Desserts were a hit on our second trip. I always go for the fresh raspberries in cream and they didn't disappoint. One of our friends ate several pieces of cheesecake. Hey, at 6'5" who's going to count?

The service is terrific, the price (\$12.95 per person) is right, and

with a little more work on the quality and variety, this place will be a big hit on the Delta circuit. For now, expect a few uneven moments, but go anyway, sit in a comfortable chair, relax, and enjoy the Delta diversity. ▼

(*Grand Island Inn, River Road in Courtland; 10:30am-2pm Sunday Brunch, \$12.95/person, comp wine, coffee, orange juice. Reservations suggested, indoor and outdoor seating.*)

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Out '90 arts festival set in Santa Fe and Albuquerque

OUT '90, the first annual New Mexico celebration of lesbian and gay arts, ideas and culture will take place in Santa Fe and Albuquerque October 5-31. OUT '90 will feature a variety of events in visual arts, film, theatre, poetry, music, dance and performance art, as well as a symposium and panel discussions on local and national issues of gay importance.

"OUT '90 is about being visible, exchanging ideas and celebrating our diversity (and) our self-expression as artists (and) individual gay and lesbians," said Ernesto Torres, Santa Fe co-chair. "And in a real sense, it is a coming out process for the entire community. Non-lesbian and non-gay people are very much involved in making this happen."

Originally proposed by Neal Isbin, President of the New Mexico

lesbian and gay community organization Common Bond, OUT '90 is intended to provide a wide array of artistic and cultural activities centered around National Coming Out Day on October 11. "The idea is to capitalize on the persuasive power of film, theatre and art in general to convey concepts that it is OK to be gay and wrong to persecute and discriminate," said Isbin.

OUT '90 has been planned to coincide with National Coming Out Day on October 11. OUT '90 is sponsored by the Santa Fe Council for the Arts/Artist's Advocacy Committee and The Great Catsby, a gay and lesbian community center.

For information, call Richard Hooker at 505-982-6776 (Santa Fe) or Neil Isbin at 505-275-9721 (Albuquerque). ▼

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MGW PETS

Back-to-basics: Parvo

by S. Richard Sweetser, DVM
OF MGW STAFF

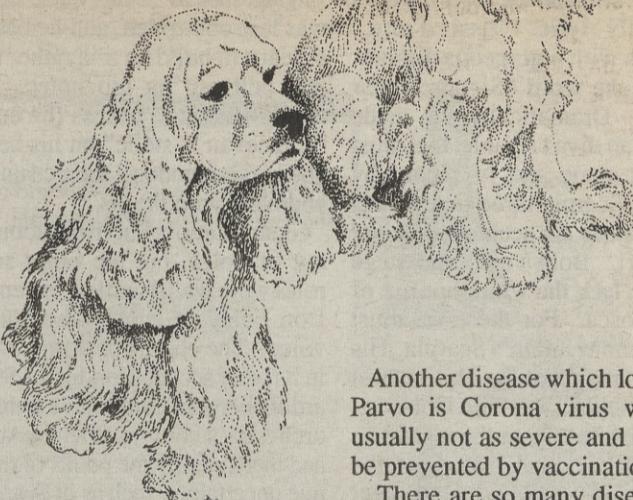
Recently, in my practice, I've seen a few too many dogs with a disease, that is often fatal and easily preventable: Parvo disease. Parvo virus first appeared in California about 12 years ago and it was very scary at first, because there wasn't much vaccine available, and the virus was spreading through the dog population very quickly. Well, now we have plenty of Parvo vaccine. It's included in the regular yearly Distemper vaccination which we call the "DHLP-P" or "6-in-1."

Dogs that have Parvo start with vomiting or diarrhea or both and they are very depressed and often don't want to eat. They can get the virus and die within 24 hours or linger with these flu-like symptoms for a week or more. Often a dog sick with Parvo has to be hospitalized because they can't keep any food or liquids down and the only way for them to get nutrition and avoid dehydration is to have intravenous fluids. Because of all the nursing care, the veterinary bills can easily run \$80 to \$90 a day. The sad thing is, this all could have been avoided if the dog had been

given their regular vaccinations as a puppy, which are the DHLP-P from the age of eight weeks until



they are 16 weeks, every three to four weeks, with their last Parvo after 18 weeks of age. This comes out to be about three or four vaccinations depending on how often you get them. An adult dog who has not been vaccinated needs a series of two DHLP-P's three weeks apart.



Another disease which looks like Parvo is Corona virus which is usually not as severe and can also be prevented by vaccinations.

There are so many diseases we cannot prevent, but Parvo can be prevented with a proper series of vaccinations. So, save yourself and your pet a lot of agony and expense. Get them vaccinated. ▼

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Gay and lesbian scholars

by Joanne Marrow, Ph.D.
OF MGW STAFF

First in a series...

Harrington Park Press is releasing a series of books on gay and lesbian research done by social scientists. While no statements are made as to the sexual identities of the researchers, it is clear that the areas under study are of personal interest to the authors. This is the beginning of a new generation of studies of the gay and lesbian lifestyles which are written from within the perspective of the communities, rather than from the viewpoint of the heterosexual anglo male. Here are some highlights of the documented information.

Jean Schaar Gochros, Ph.D.
When Husbands Come Out of
The Closet, Harrington Park
Press, N.Y. 1989.

Dr. Gochros focused her study on the wives of men who acknowledge their gay or bisexual identities after they are married. She interviewed 33 women in depth and a total of 100 women. She cites research that indicates that 15 to 20 percent of married men pursue sex with other men. Most researchers agree that 20 percent of gay men marry. Others state that 50 percent to "most" gay men marry. (Drop me a card at MGW for your informal count: # of gay men asked, # ever married.)

One wife stated that after her husband came out of the closet, she went into one. The primary characteristics of these wives are senses of isolation, grief and depression. One telling reason may be the author's finding that 67 percent of these families actively participate in a homophobia, patriarchal and conservative Christian sect (Catholic, Mormon, Baptist, Pentecostal, Fundamentalist). While Gochros thinks that this may reflect American society in general, I posit another explanation: men raised in this type of religion have a more difficult "coming out" process; delay coming out; and attempt "normalcy" through a marriage. Men who are nonreligious or raised in a liberal sect are not taught to hate homosexuality.

Given their background, these women never suspect that their husbands are gay. Steeped in heterosexuality and having no gay friends, their husbands' reality is the fur-

thest thing from their minds. The author states that many of these women find themselves victimized and blamed by therapists when they seek help to deal with this revelation. They are accused of being "fag hags"; they are accused of being afraid of "real" (i.e., heterosexual) men. They are accused of not being woman enough to keep their husband heterosexual. They are accused of turning their husbands into homosexuals. Is it any wonder these women feel isolated?

Of course, like most wives, these women are prepared to take the blame for their husbands' straying from the "true" path. If this is the "help" which professionals offer, family and friends are worse. In addition, they are very likely in open conflict with their husbands, so their mate is no consolation.

The author suggests that there are therapists who understand the coming out process well enough to state that the husband is dealing with something in himself that has little to do with his wife. She tells wives in this situation to keep looking until you find such a therapist.

Gochros states that only one wife was in "denial." She walked in on her husband in bed with another man; closed the door; and promptly forgot the whole incident until, years later, her husband told her he was gay.

Why were gay men attractive as marital partners? The wives state, "lack of sexism," "different from other men," "sensitive, caring, kind, thoughtful, gentle, strong." In addition, they were adventurous, had a good sense of humor, were creative and charming.

Most of these women were sexually naive and had no basis on which to evaluate their marital sexual relationship. Still, prior to the revelation, they describe their marriages as "the American dream."

Once the illusion is shattered, these women face years of struggle with their feelings over the situation.

The most important positive factor is how their gay husband informed them of the truth. If he was kind, considerate, honest and direct, prognosis for both of them moving on with their lives was the best. The worst situation was finding one's husband in bed with a man. It seems that the more the husband was "out" to himself and comfortable with his gay identity, the more the wife could understand him and feel good about herself.

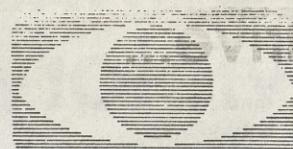
Many of the husbands wanted to stay married; have marriage involving little sexuality; and have male lovers and/or "tricks" as a primary sexual outlet. The wife, of course, was expected to be monogamous. It would seem that no woman of the 90s would embrace this option, but for 67 percent of these women there is a hitch. Their husband is the "priest" and "head of household" and "marriage is eternal" according to their religious beliefs. Their husband can offer this option, enforce silence (even from the minister) and the wife must obey. She is caught in a dilemma: she must obey and stay married, but the marriage is a sinful one. No wonder she takes years to resolve this issue!

A minority of these couples do stay happily married. The author states that success is not based on how homosexual the husband is, but rather on how heterosexual he is. I would say that it is a matter of how bisexual he is. The man who is lover to his wife; demonstrates that she is "primary"; and keeps intimate and open with his spouse may stay successfully married. These couples had to alter their marriage to an "open" one, usually both of them taking lovers.

In just one case, the wife acknowledged her own lesbianism after her husband came out to her. This couple happily parted.

Gochros' book offers more useful information for therapists and people involved in this situation. ▼

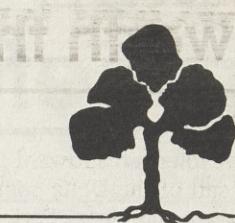
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Intolerance wins shameful victory

by Barbara R. Russo
GUEST WRITER

On September 4, voters in Broward County, Florida took to the polls to vote on the Broward Human Rights Act, which would ban housing or job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. On this very same day, an unexpectedly strong showing by conservative voters, a low turnout in retirement condominiums, and some deeply held attitudes towards homosexuality all helped defeat the Human Rights Amendment.

The defeat of the referendum, by a 3-2 ratio, capped a very long and emotional debate between both parties. "Save Our Children" was the key to the amendment's defeat. The conservative Christians who used the slogan said it spurred family people to action. Gay rights leaders claimed that it stirred up fear and hysteria. Either way, it worked. Anita Bryant used this very same theme to persuade Dade County voters to repeal protections for homosexuals in 1977. History has once again repeated itself.

"Morally unacceptable" were the words Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy -- leader of South Florida's 1.3 million Roman Catholics -- voiced while urging a vote against the referendum. Every Catholic Church in Broward was required to read a statement from the Archbishop during the Sunday mass before the vote denouncing the amendment and urging a vote against the issue.

"This definitely was not a vote of hatred toward the homosexual community," opposition leader Maurice Baum said. "It was a mere expression of the commitment to traditional family values by the people of Broward County. The victory is God's, the community's, and the nation's."

Gay rights leaders said their cause was hurt by an erroneous perception that a vote for the amendment was a vote in support of homosexuals and homosexuality. Opponents said the amendment would grant special privileges to homosexuals and urged voters to reject it and "Save Our Children." It was a

victory for prejudice and for fear.

Only once, in Boulder, Colorado, have U.S. voters endorsed protection for gay men and lesbians. Such protections exist in about 24 states, 76 cities, and nearly two dozen counties, including nearby Palm Beach County; but those laws were enacted by elected officials. Across the country, gay rights supporters said they were disappointed, but not surprised, by the result. After the vote, they said they were more convinced than ever that placing civil rights before the electorate is a politically explosive proposition. The weeks of heated debate before the election truly supported their theory.

If tolerance is too much to ask in the case of homosexuals, at least allowances are called for. The amendment was an issue of human rights, not sexual preferences or homosexuality. No one should be deprived from pursuing a legitimate goal, at least according to the Bill of Rights. Broward's voting majority has earned no credit for buying such intolerance. ▼

X rating protested by gays

by Maria Albin
OF MGW STAFF

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is protesting the X rating given recently to director Philip Kaufman's latest film, "Henry and June." The group claims the X rating unfairly stigmatizes the film as pornographic.

The film is a Universal Pictures adaptation of poet-novelist Anais Nin's account of her love affair with writer Henry Miller, as well as her obsession with Miller's wife June. Three intimate scenes between the two women are believed to be the cause of the X rating.

GLAAD, in a letter to Motion Picture Association of America's president, Jack Valenti, charges the X rating is generally associated in the minds of viewers as pornography, and most likely would not

Gay ad campaign taking off

by Dell Richards
OF MGW STAFF

The ad campaign launched by Christopher Street West/Los Angeles (CSW/LA) was just one of many launched this year by gay and lesbian organizations and by AIDS organizations.

Gay Pride in Atlanta put up a 28' by 84' billboard that says "Gay America Loves You" on the intersection of two downtown freeways that is seen by millions of commuters every day.

Though it's not strictly gay, Art Against AIDS/On the Road has been able to get AIDS education public service posters that show two gay couples (one female, one male) and one heterosexual couple kissing with the words "Kissing Doesn't Kill: Greed and Indifference Do" on buses in a number of different cities.

But the CSW/LA campaign was the most comprehensive -- and the most expensive.

The on-going campaign's biggest splash was a one-time \$5,000 ad in the Western edition of *Newsweek Magazine* which is seen by millions.

CSW/LA spent nearly \$30,000 buying ad space at discounted prices. Most magazines gave a discount to the non-profit organization and the newspaper giant Gannett donated billboards for that end of the campaign.

The group plans to spend about \$10,000 buying ads next year also.

The idea was to reach as many people as possible with a positive image of gay people. While the ads were designed to instill pride in gay people, they also were targeted to the middle-of-the-road to liberal heterosexuals.

"We wanted to reach the gay and non-gay community," said David Smith, who coordinated the public relations end of the campaign.

"We wanted to reach everyone - sensitive, ambivalent and the downright nasty."

And they have. The ads have been seen by millions and they have generated articles about gays in the mainstream press.

But why now?

Five years ago, the same magazines rejected an ad from CSW/LA featuring actress Rita Moreno that said "Gay Pride begins with me."

"This ad was groundbreaking," said Smith. "Five years ago, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News & World Report* all refused to accept the ad."

"I can't think of any major magazine that's accepted an ad for gay and lesbian pride until now."

Howard Wallman, the ad agency executive who helped create the Los Angeles campaign, thinks the gay and lesbian movement is old enough -- and economically viable enough -- to start using all the tools available.

"Movements have a life cycle," said Wallman. "The first part is radical -- being anti-establishment and disruptive -- to get attention.

"But once you have their attention, it's time to talk to them in their language."

He also thinks that in the 20 years since Stonewall, the gay movement has become much more worldly-wise -- and that using gay talent and money to create the kind of publicity gays want goes hand-in-hand with that sophistication.

"From a pragmatic point of view, when it looks better, it looks legitimate -- and it's easier to get it accepted."

And, despite the toll AIDS has taken, the disease and its attendant publicity has put the word "homosexual" into the media vocabulary.

"People used to think homosexuality had nothing to do with them," said Wallman. "But it's not so easy to say that this is irrelevant now. There's always someone who knows someone who is gay these days." ▼

Snap cancels appearance, boycott continues following gay bashing

by Carrie Wofford
GUEST WRITER

BOSTON -- A top 10 music group, whose lead singer allegedly gay-bashed the owner and employee of a gay nightclub here and whose hit song, "The Power," has been the target of a boycott for the last three weeks, has now cancelled its performance scheduled for August 26.

Snap was scheduled to open the Soul II Soul show at "Great Woods," a performance site outside of Bos-

"Do I look like a ----- faggot to you?"

ton on August 26, but the group cancelled its show August 14. Snap's cancellation follows claims by activists in Zap Snap, a new boycotting group of Boston's Queer Nation, that the police were allegedly considering serving a subpoena to the lead singer, Turbo Harris, for charges of assault and civil rights violations.

The alleged incident occurred at 2am on July 20 at the gay male nightclub, Buddies, which boasts the top 10 hit, "The Power," was scheduled to perform a benefit for the Fenway Community Health Center. Witnesses support Moreau's claim that after the band had concluded their one-song performance, and had a few drinks the lead singer, 275 pound, 6 foot tall, Turbo Harris, "came over to me and proceeded to start strangle me [sic], forcing me down by my back against the top of the bar. He then started yelling at me, 'Did you tell my manager this was a gay bar?'"

Dennis Moreau, owner of the bar, and witnesses further claim that Turbo had his band members hold back security men attempting to intervene, and then said to Moreau, "Do I look like a fucking faggot to you?" Threatening Moreau with, "I should kick your ass," he allegedly "drop-kicked" employee Kevin Riley in the upper-chest/throat area, sending him flying 10 feet.

Both Moreau and Riley have filed charges of assault, and Moreau has filed an additional charge of violation of his civil rights under Massachusetts' new civil rights law, which includes sexual orientation as a protected category.

Huckaby confirmed that Dick Scott and Arista records are going ahead with the suggestion of gay activists that Snap's next song be a rap against hate-motivated crimes, such as gay-bashings. ▼



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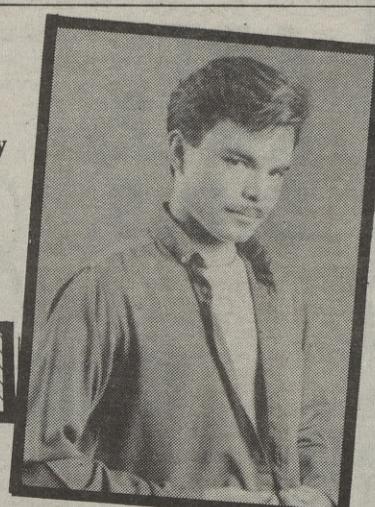
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MCC and Mayor Anne Rudin unveil the new sanctuary



Mayor Anne Rudin dedicated the River City MCC's new Sanctuary. The former Bank of America Building at Broadway and 3rd. The church had a three-day celebration with a Street BBQ, Western Dance, a Gospel Concert, Carnival and Block Party, and musical drama "Tribute to the Memory of You."



Mayor Anne Rudin unveils MCC dedication plaque on the new building with Reverend Freda Smith.

Photos by Kate Tavares

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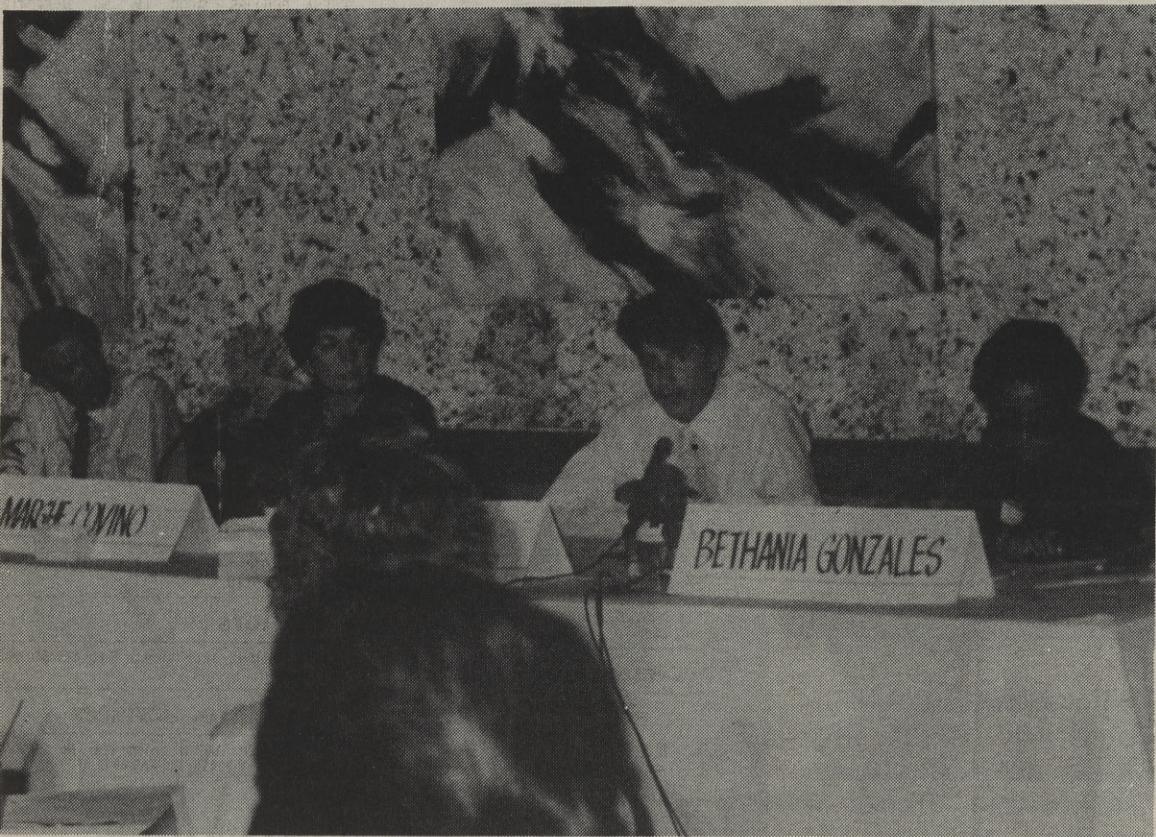
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Can gay men and lesbians get along and fight our battles together?



Panelists at the recent Dialogue with RCDC listen to the discussion about the developing relationship between lesbians and gay men in Sacramento. Sponsored by the River City Democratic Club, the event drew a large crowd to the Town House. Panelists included, from left, Lee Nichols, Marghe Covino, Ian Maki and Bethania Gonzales.

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force plans conference

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force will hold its third annual "Creating Change" Conference November 10-12. The 1990 conference will be held in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota.

In just two years, "Creating Change" has become the preeminent forum for networking and skill building among lesbian and gay activists and organizers. In 1989, more than 500 participants traveled to Washington during the Veteran's Day Weekend to attend the conference.

This year, 42 workshops will cover building statewide organizations, sodomy law repeal, organizing

against violence, lobbying, domestic partner organizing, media advocacy, youth politics and much more.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is the oldest and largest organization lobbying, mobilizing, and educating for gay and lesbian civil rights. NGLTF has more than 17,000 members nationwide.

To obtain registration information, write to NGLTF/Creating Change, 1517 U Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20009. Registration, with payment, must be received by October 31. ▼

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Photo by Deborah Goldstein

CAP/PAC board member Tom Burns, Alice Waters, proprietor of Chez Panisse and Realtor Brent Miller.

AID and COMFORT II

By Deborah Goldstein
OF MGW STAFF

Sacramentans Tom Burns and Brent Miller share a moment and a glass of wine with Alice Waters, proprietor of Chez Panisse Restaurant, who along with Vince Calcagno of Zuni Cafe, founded AID & COMFORT in 1987. "We want this collaboration to reinvolve the spirit of the first AID & COMFORT held in 1987 and demonstrate to an ever larger community of people how much we care," said Waters.

Burns, on one of the behind-the-scenes committees, flew in from Alaska to be at the dinner and concert, which included entertainers Bobby McFerrin, Herbie Hancock, the Kronos Quartet, and Laurie Anderson.

Certain spirits were indeed invoked, as a pouring rain began five minutes into the performance, but the show went on. Rain did not dampen the spirits of those attending, however, and promoter Bill Graham, caught up in the emotion of the fundraiser, gave out 4,000 free tickets to future concerts those staying through the rain to the end of the concert.

AID & COMFORT II is a community collaboration with Bay Area restaurants, California wineries, hotels, musicians, artists, students and faculty (at UC Berkeley) to support agencies providing vital day-to-day services for people living with AIDS. Recipients include Project Open Hand Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco, S.F. AIDS Foundation, S.F. AIDS Emergency Fund, Shanti Project, The Center-A Spiritual Resource Center, and The AIDS Project of the East Bay.

The \$500 dinner on the hillside above the Greek Theatre on the UC Berkeley campus was a collaboration of some of northern California's top restaurants, including Zuni Cafe, Chez Panisse, Square One, Masa's, Stars, Fleur de Lys, and Greens. For only \$25, concertgoers had a choice of "box lunches" which included American (chicken), Asian (noodles with pesto), and Mediterranean (smoked lamb).

Foods were cooked on site and assembled in three field kitchens (tents) above and paired with fine wines and spirits including Clicquot Champagne, Iron Horse Brut, Matanzas Creek Sauvignon Blanc, Ridge Zinfandel, Chalone Pinot Blanc, Chardonnays from Trefethen and Mondavi, Sterling Pinot Noir and Phelps Insignia, Martell Cognac and Sandeman Port. ▼

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CALENDAR

October

1 Monday

- Dialogue with RCDC Impact of Sacramento City-County Consolidation on gays/lesbians. 5-6pm No Host Bar, 6-7:30pm Dialogue, Town House, 1517 21st St., L Street.
- 7th Annual Lambda Awards Dinner. \$35/person or \$280/table of 8. Contact Lambda Center or River City Democratic Club.
- The Coming Out Group, GLAS/CSUS, every Mon. 5:30-7pm, Miwok Room, University Union, 441-7305, 456-3469.
- NOW Job Support Group, 7pm, 442-1075 for location, info.

2 Tuesday

- Monthly Court Meeting, 7pm, Faces, 421-3134.
- Sacramento Record Society, Goethe Hall, St. John's Lutheran Church, 1711 L St, 7-9:30pm, 855-8410, 452-7693.
- Outlook, lesbian/gay show, 1st Tues. each month, 10pm, Sac Cable 63; The Black Coalition on AIDS, Dr. Marcus Conant.
- Being Gay Today, lesbian/gay programs from around the country, 10pm, Sac Cable 63.

3 Wednesday

- Outdoor Adventures, monthly potluck; Jeff, 1-644-4170.
- Increasing Self-Image for Women, 7pm, 6 Wednesdays, \$120; Church of Enthusiasm & Joy, 2755 Cottage Way, Suite 11, 456-5685, 489-7503.
- Sacramento on the Go, thru Oct. 4, Sac Metro Chamber of Commerce, Sac Community Center; keynote speaker Dan Cordtz, 443-3771, ext. 120.
- DANCE, Urban Bush Women, African-American song & dance; Main Theatre UC Davis, 8pm, 1-752-2523 tickets.

4 Thursday

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CALENDAR

CALENDAR

CALENDAR

CALENDAR

October

- Outlook, lesbian/gay show, 1st Thurs. each month, 9pm, Sac Cable 63. The Black Coalition on AIDS, Dr. Marcus Conant.
- Bring a Non-Gay Friend, GLAS/CSUS weekly meet, 8:30-10pm, Calif. Suite, CSUS, 441-7305, 456-3469.
- Women's Power Group, every Thurs., 7pm, Church of Enthusiasm & Joy, 2755 Cottage Way, Suite 11; \$20/session, 967-3431.
- Noon Concert, Pianists Helen Twiss, Sandra Brown, 20th Century Works, 12:05pm, 115 Music Blvd., UCD, free.
- DANCE, Children of Bali, ages 10-14 perform traditional Indonesian dances, 8pm, Freeborn Hall, UCD, 487-2523 tickets.
- Being Gay Today, lesbian/gay programs from around the country. Thursdays 9pm, Sac Cable 63.
- Sacramento Symphony, see Oct. 5.
- Recovery: A Personal Experience, see Oct. 5.
- Women's & Men's Soccer, UCD vs. Cal State/Hayward, UCD soccer field east of Rec Hall, Davis, women, 12noon; men, 2:45pm.
- Football, UCD vs. Cal Poly, UCD Toomey Field, 7pm, Davis.
- Sacramento Men's Chorus, Fundraiser for YWCA, 6pm, BBQ & music, \$10, 451-6979 for location.

7 Sunday



Evan Thomas and Mark Tomasetti at the Matrix Art Gallery thru October 7.

5 Friday

- Desert Women's Assoc. 4th Annual Palm Springs Area Gay Pride & Country Fair, (619) 346-1612 or (619) 343-2207; through Oct. 8.
- DANCE, Urban Bush Women, African-American song & dance, see Oct. 3.
- Bob Hope, benefit performance, 8pm, UCD Rec Hall, emcees Dick Cable, Mary Jane Popp, 452-1920 info; BASS tickets.
- Recovery: A Personal Experience, Forum on Chemical Dependency, Holiday Inn Hollidome, 5321 Date Ave, 643-3000 info.
- Sacramento Symphony, with Carter Nice, Alexei Sultanov, piano, 8pm, Community Center Theater, 14th & L, 649-0200.
- 13th Annual Calif. Men's Gathering, thru Oct. 8, Camp Swig/Santa Cruz Mtns., 209-533-0941. 446-4398 or 638-0317.

6 Saturday

- Benefit Concert, Open Road, Sierra Two Center for the Arts, 2791 24th Street, 448-2437.
- White Elephant Fair & Sale, Sacto. Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., 10am-5pm, 487-6151, 487-5898.
- Mask Making workshop I.D.E.A., 9am-5pm, 3414 4th Ave., 452-0949.
- Diane Davidson, The Palms, Davis, 8pm, 442-4657.

8 Monday

- Sacramento Symphony, 3pm, see Oct. 5.
- Oktoberfest, special beers & menu brewing. Paragary's, 5pm, 28th & N St, 455-5312.

14 Sunday

- Fundraising Dinner, for Dianne Feinstein, Shining Star Ranch, Elverta, 991-1727, 393-8399 evenings.

15 Monday

- Song & Dance, Africa Oye! Dance, acrobatics, African masks, 8pm, Sac Community Center Theater, 1-752-2523.

16 Tuesday

- Being Gay Today, lesbian/gay programs from around the country, 10pm, Sac Cable 63.

17 Wednesday

- PFLAG, monthly meet, 7:30pm, St. Marks United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Marks Way.

18 Thursday

- Men's Soccer, 3pm, CSU Chico vs. UCD, field east of Rec Hall, Davis.

19 Friday

- Dance Deco, Jazzworks 9th season, 24th Street Theatre, 2791 24th, 8pm, 483-4017; thru Nov. 3.

20 Saturday

- Holly Near, 8:30pm, special performance at Crest Theatre, 442-4657.

21 Sunday

- Sacramento Symphony, see Oct. 26.

22 Monday

- Music by Joey, presents "Trick or Treat" Dance, for Women by Women, 9pm-2am, Shangri-La, 6339 Mack Rd, \$5 cover, 427-5713.

23 Tuesday

- Sacramento Symphony, 3pm, see Oct. 26.

24 Wednesday

- Being Gay Today, see Oct. 16.

25 Thursday

- Lambda Awards Dinner, El Dorado Room, Sac Community Center, 6:30pm. Nominations wanted for contributions to Sac lesbian/gay community, deadline Sept. 30. 447-0661.

26 Friday

- Reading by Nona Caspers, Lioness Books, 2224 J St., 7pm, 442-4657.

27 Saturday

- K-Rap Radio Players, 8:30pm, Melarkey's, 1517 Broadway, \$5 cover, 451-4143, 455-4576.

28 Sunday

- Sacramento Symphony, 3pm, see Oct. 26.

29 Tuesday

- Being Gay Today, see Oct. 16.

30 Wednesday

- American River College Orchestra, 8pm, Amer. River College Theater, 4700 College Oak Dr, 484-8433.

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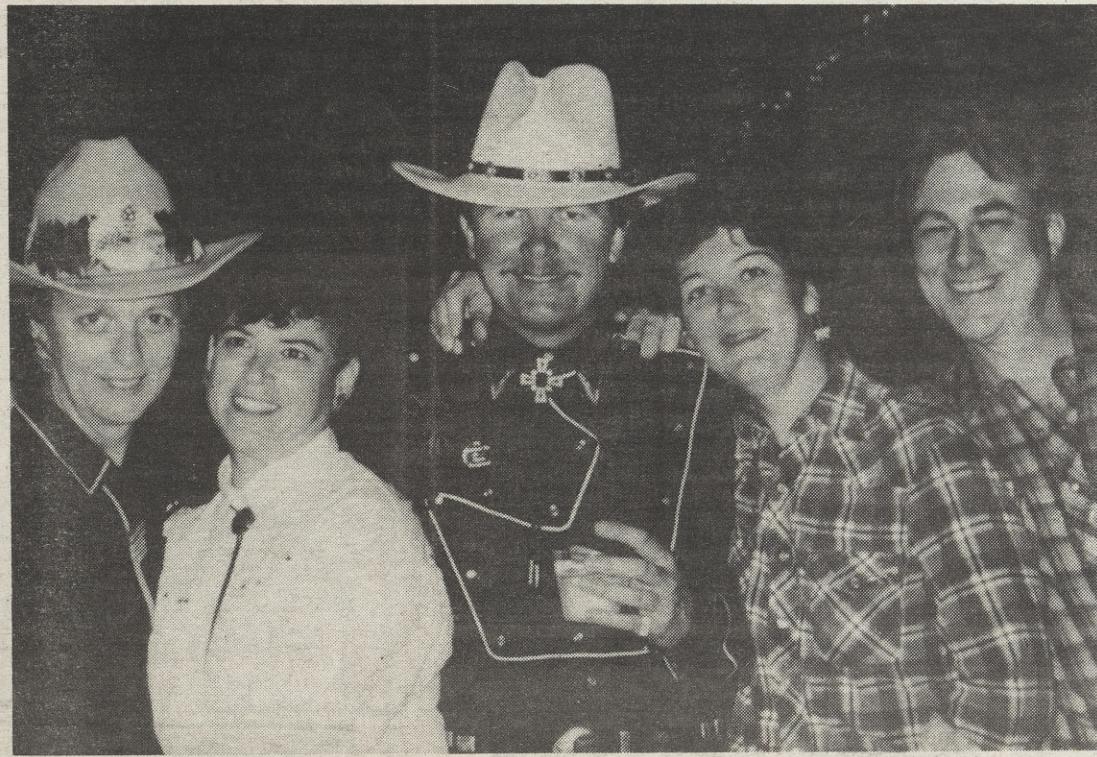
's Pull-Out Section

MGW FLASH!

by John Batchelor
OF MGW STAFF

(For phone numbers and details on events mentioned in this column, check the calendar and organization information in the back of the paper.)

National Coming Out Day is October 11. While it means many things to many people, it especially means doing something. Take that small or big step and open that door just a little bit further. One way to show our pride is to fly the rainbow flag. You can buy one (to benefit the cause) and an array of other goodies at Lioness Books. And do check out their periodicals while you are visiting. The Gifted Gardener has moved to a new location at 22 & J. They now have doubled their floor space! This should be just the incentive for you to double the size of your garden! You can also pick up a "Coming Out Rainbow Flag" at the Gardener to benefit the SMC. Get those Halloween costumes together as there are parties all over town. Undoubtedly the biggest will be downtown at the Lincoln Atrium hosted by the Sacramento Men's Chorus (SMC) on October 27. Longtime buddy Gary Coates is hosting a Marilyn Monroe costume party with friends. We've got to get pictures. Wherever you end up, play it safe in all ways and wear plenty of lipstick. One man who knows how to keep in touch is RCDC president Karl Greene. The man has beautiful handwriting and an unending supply of postcards. And it's a good thing because RCDC is going strong in October. After raising \$2,000 for the Feinstein campaign last month, the club is sponsoring a house party on October 11. Council-member Kim Mueller is hosting the event. Eleven speakers are now trained with the Speaker's Bureau. The group will debate the proposed city/county merger on October 1. And finally, there's the big, annual, Lambda Awards Dinner, at the Convention Center on October 25. Steve Winlock is planning Dennis Mangers' 50th Birthday Party!! Hard to believe he is really going to be 50!! Frank Lawler celebrated his 40th Birthday with a Western Dance and celebration complete with limousine and a hot male stripper!! An adventurous group in town is the Lambda Players of Sacramento. Their current play "On Tina Tuna Walk" runs through October 14. Opening night was filled with laughs and some unexpected surprises. The final scene included a disappearing cake and furniture that went crashing down. All five men do an excellent job, especially David Galbraith who is a natural. In other theatre news Roy, the world premiere, runs through October 13 at Theatre Rhino in San Francisco. It's quite the emotion-



Joan Greenfield, Jill Spitz, Birthday Cowboy Frank Lawler, Karen Merick and Ron Clyma at Frank's 40th Birthday Party!!



Frank Lawler and Karen Merick displaying his special gifts of wand, wings and crown!

ally charged gay history lesson on Roy Cohn. Cohn helped Joe McCarthy during the communist "witch hunts" of the 1950s. Don't miss it. And speaking of performing, yours truly will be on stage with the Sacramento Ballet! *Don Quixote* is playing at the Community Center Theatre October 19 and 20. Playing the comedy character of Gamache is both a challenge and great fun. Please try to attend. The recent Pillars Anniversary Dinner and friends Lee Nichols, Marghe Covino, Mickey Mitchell, Bill McOmber, and Carolyn Langenkamp honored Lou Camera with its Golden Poke Award. Some of the jabs included Lou's famous weeding party, hot tub, a dry "flower" arrangement and the highlight, a picture of Lou as a child with two nuns. Women that apparently changed Lou's life forever. If you missed Diane Davidson at the Women's

Festival, you'll have another chance. Davidson will be performing at The Palms in Davis on October 6. And even closer to home, Holly Near has a special performance at the Crest Theatre on October 19. One of my reliable sources informs me that our famous Dell Richards (MGW and syndicated columnist) was a hit at the West Coast Women's Music & Comedy Festival. Not only with attendees but also possibly with organizer Robin Tyler. It seems that Richards was often seen in Tyler's personal golf cart. Workshops conducted by both women were also scheduled back to back. This could all be merely a coincidence but who knows! "Open Road", Sacramento's gay country and western duet are the featured performers at a benefit at the Sierra 2 Theatre. The proceeds benefit the Sacramento AIDS Foundation's Hand to Hand program. Be sure to highlight

October 6 on your calendar. The notorious Wreck Room is celebrating their 10th Anniversary on the weekend of October 12. The weekend features a midnight buffet on Friday and the "Pig-Out of the Decade" on Sunday. Last time we reported a successful Rainbow Festival organized by Faces and the Lambda Community Center. Now there is more to add, the Festival raised over \$7,000 for Hope House and the Center. Kudos to everyone involved. The Buffalo Club (also known as "The Buff") is still buzzing away on renovations. From my observations, it looks as though it will be well worth the sawdust. Since Halloween is not far away, it's time to pull a tidbit out of my files on the Town House. Arachnophobia seemed to possess the popular haunt not long ago. Apparently an irate customer vandalized the front window. Karl Buch, one of the owners, had to



Lou Camera couldn't believe some of the loving comments he received at his roasting!!

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think fast and created a giant cobweb and spider. Even though the window is repaired, the owners might want to recreate the Buch design for the upcoming holiday. The massive entertainment complex, Joseph's Town and Country (JTC) continues with events every night of the week, including dinner! There are even late night munchies available upstairs. If you're part of the younger crowd (18-21) JTC welcomes you upstairs Wednesday-Saturday with identification.

Flash!

continued from page 11

Swing by and check out all the show times The Mercantile has many an October benefit. This club must also be commended on its continual fundraising efforts. Do check out their calendar of events ● Happy October Birthday wishes to Dennis Mangers, Steven Doerr (State Worker Rookie of the Year) Gene Moore, Bill Bloomer, John David Klingensmith, Clay Meyers, Meg H., and Kate Lang ● One couple who sneaked past the seven year itch (barely) is Doug Garrett and Chris Meints. They vow to come out of hiding as soon as they landscape the backyard. By then we'll be celebrating 10 years scary thought ● While the staff at the Sacramento AIDS Foundation is decreasing, the Buddy Connec-

tion/90 safe sex workshop will still meet twice in October. Mark October 12 and/or 29 in your appointment books ● The *Metropolitan Home* magazine recently featured the Boston AIDS Hospice within its pages. Apparently designers donated their time to create beautiful rooms with plants and soft lighting. More and more we see a humane approach to treating those with AIDS ● In between shows on Access Sacramento Cable 47, the station played an AIDS educational commercial from Australia. The station must be commended for showing this creative and thought-provoking public service announcement ● Until mid October, keep moving ahead.....

John▼



Leathermen from Stockton were flag-bearers at Ducal Ball's opening ceremonies.

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MOM...GUESS WHAT!

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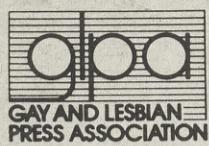
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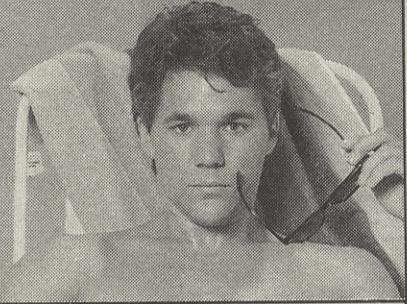


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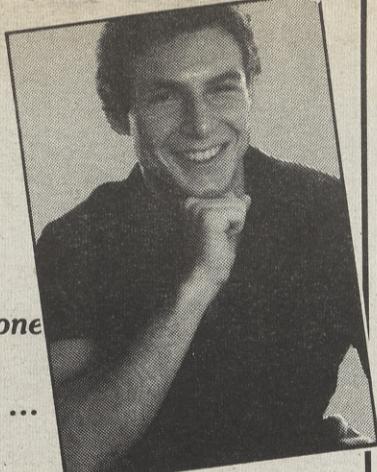
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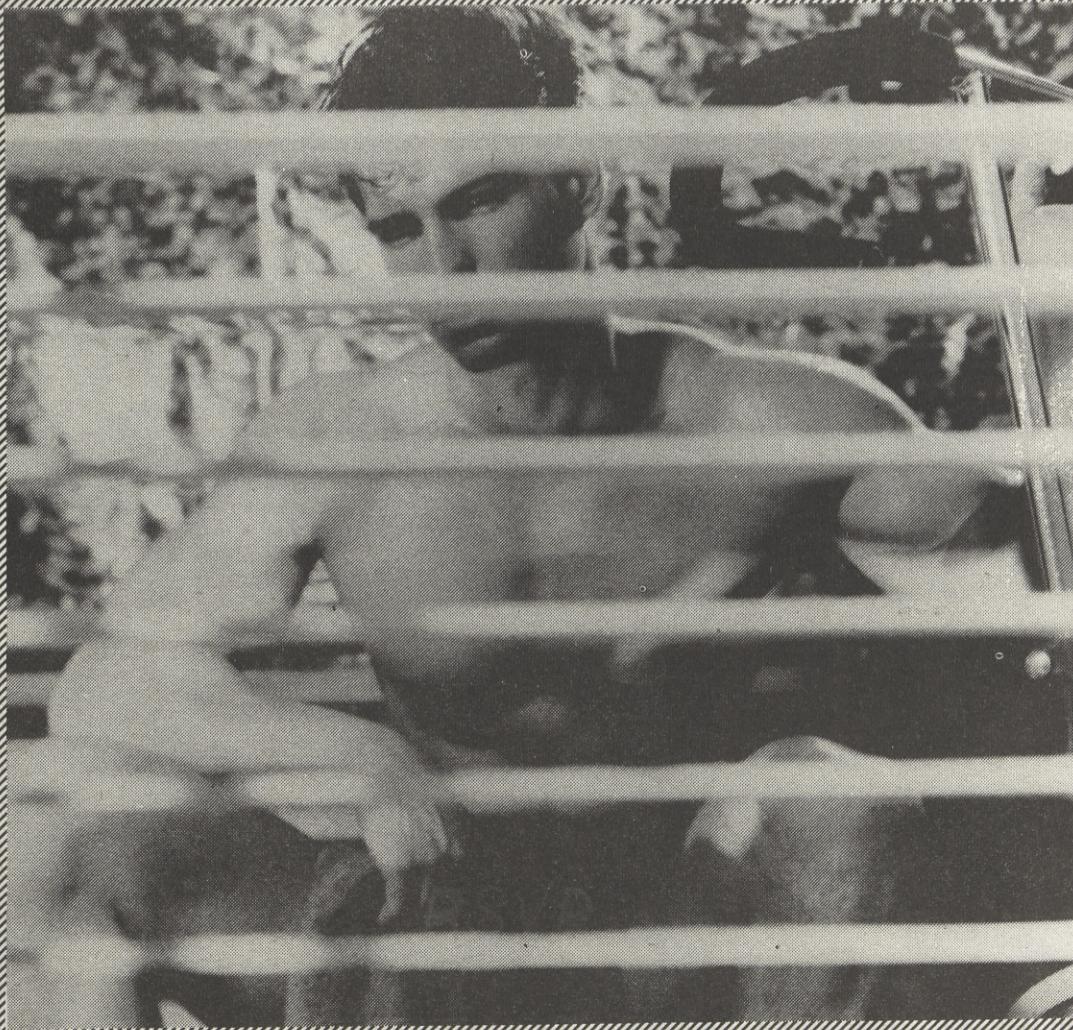
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Racine chosen as this year's Grand Duchess

by Sonya Cox
OF MGW STAFF

The incredibly well-organized and fun Grand Ducal Ball (sock hop), four months in the making, was the scene for the recent coronation of Racine and Gene, this year's Grand Duchess and Grand Duke. Outgoing royalty Large Marge and Patrick reigned over the event held at the Tuesday Club on L Street; rumor has it that this event was followed by one of the greatest "going away" parties ever to see Sacramento, which took place at a local motel to the eye-popping delight of other guests!

Accompanying photos show the current Empress Vannah, the newly elected Grand Duchess Racine, outgoing Empress Large Marge, and a few of the many others who at-



Miss Taffy

tended the recent crowning.

Members of the Court of Sacramento for years have been putting on shows, at the (extreme) expense of each individual who participates, to raise money for the community. They have helped such causes as the Make-a-Wish Foundation and WEAVE (Women Escaping a Violent Environment). But they have been absolutely dynamite in raising money for people living with AIDS.

Rarely has a single month gone by, over the past many years, in which our local "drag queens" have not put on a show to raise money for AIDS charities. Sometimes they only raise a few dollars; sometimes much, much more. But never do they stop their efforts. They have been right in there from the very beginning of the epidemic, on a consistent basis, probably more than any other single group of people in the community. And yet many of us continue to be confused about drag queens in general (which we'll discuss in future issues), how the court system works, and what the election process to the various seats on the court entails.

And so, to bring you up to date on this group of fascinating and giving men who are comfortable enough with themselves and their identity to go out in public in a dress whenever the mood strikes, we bring you a bit of background from this year's Empress, Miss Vannah Woolsey-What, also known as the incredibly handsome Hal Griffiths (see accompanying box). ▼

What is the Court system?

by Hal Griffiths
GUEST WRITER

The Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire (CGNIE), a nonprofit, fundraising organization, is part of a system that dates back over one-quarter of a century. San Francisco's first Empress, Jose, was appointed by the Tavern Guild. Eventually, the title became an elected position. Different areas began to establish their own empires, with Sacramento and much of the north state becoming CGNIE in the early 70s.

While the majority of the court is gay men, the organization welcomes anyone who wishes to participate. Our membership includes many races, both sexes, and a variety of sexual preferences.

Neither do we discriminate about who we raise funds for. In this time of crisis, much of our effort is directed to AIDS related charities, but we've also helped such good causes as the Make-A-Wish Foundation and WEAVE.

Another aspect of the court is to travel, to promote Sacramento to the other empires. It gives us a chance to network for fun and develop fundraising ideas.

While CGNIE, Inc. has a board of directors, the busiest people are the Emperor and Empress. They are the head of the court and leaders of Fundraising and Public Relation Committees.

Because of its immense size (there are approximately 20 Empires in California), CGNIE has federalized (or franchised) some of its outer areas to help the gay communities in growing cities. The Grand Duchy, headed by the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess, covers the unincorporated areas of the empire and helps in the organization of those places. The Barony of Redding has their Lord Baron and Lady Baroness. Each set of monarchs reigns for one year and has a Ball to celebrate the completion of their term.

The current Empress, Vannah Woolsey-What, reigns alone, so relies heavily on the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess. Large Marge traveled extensively with Vannah; the new Grand Duke Gene and Grand Duchess Racine have already made their first appearances both within the Empire and in another Empire with Vannah.



Cher

Danielle

Photos by Sonya Cox



Large Marge (ctr) & friends at "sock hop" Ducal Ball.



Miss Robby



Racine



Summer Storm



Empress Vannah Woolsey-What

The Sacramento Empire is "layered" as follows:

EMPEROR
(VACANT)

EMPRESS
VANNA WHAT!

(Reign from April thru March)

GRAND DUKE
GENE

GRAND DUCHESS
RACINE

(Reign from September thru August)

There are about 20 empires of varying sizes throughout the state. As areas go through the process of beginning their own empires, such as Chico and Redding are in the process of doing, they will begin with other levels in the court system, with the goal of working their way up to Emperor and Empress. For instance, Chico is headed by a Czar and Czarina, while Redding has a Lord Baron and Lady Baroness. Until they are able to complete this process, they are considered part of the Sacramento Empire.

GRAND CZAR
LORD BARON

GRAND CZARINA
LADY BARONESS